

EXCLUSIVE

★ **WHEN CHINA RULES THE WORLD** ★

The dire consequences of the coming shift in global power P.15

MACLEAN'S

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THE FINAL ACT
**MICHAEL
JACKSON**

THE FAREWELL
THE FAMILY
THE FALLOUT
P.38



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'Canada's engagement in Afghanistan is delivering results for Afghan citizens'

BAD, BUT IN A GOOD WAY

IT'S GREAT news that the love in for Obama is beginning to wane ("Why Barack Obama is bad for Canada," *National*, June 26). But it's too late. As Canadians were with Pierre Trudeau, American voters were hounded by a more sophisticated smooth talker. My American contacts are relaxed that the issue of having an African-American president is behind them, but they are alarmed by the price-free future generations will have to pay. Canadians will pay too.

Dore Rensser, Calgary

HERE'S AN IDEA. Let's put Barack Obama in the corner of Madison and accuse him of being bad for Canada because he wants to actually do something about global warming. It's a bold statement about the very core of our own domestic debate, energy, and economic policy when we feel the need to circle the wagons around the dirty tar sands when someone calls us on it. Here's another idea: why don't we make Canada a leader in building the clean energy economy of tomorrow, so that we are not considered a laggard on the international stage for being such a heavy carbon polluter? Then your cover could feature the Canadian politicians who devalue this economic leadership.

Robert Smith, Executive Director, Environmental Defence, Toronto

MAYBE OBAMA's push for climate protection is just what we need to focus us on our complete lack of infrastructure—some concrete, several ideas. The U.S. is not the only one putting together a second look at Canada as old and other products. Trade relations with the European Union might be at risk, too, if we don't clean up our act.

Robert Selinger, Mississauga, Ont.

EVEN AS a selfish Canadian, one would think a better way to develop the oil in the tar sands is to not preserve them as resources to help future generations of Canadians who will become monoculture. Obama may just prove to be a better friend of us—and of humanity—than suggested by our article.

Dore Whitby, Richmond Hill, Ont.

BARACK OBAMA may be wrong as far as our selves. The coverage of Obama's role in the Maclean's magazine is certainly false and clearly

the dollars and cents we stand to gain in the short term, and not at the cost of destroying our land for a good while. The fact that nations around the world are signing on to our dirty oil should be a wake-up call, not a call to arms. We can do better. Whether we like it or not, the rest of the industrialized world is moving toward sustainable energy. We can either be designed along, kicking and screaming, or we can stand up and be leaders.

Shirley Ginn, Pickering, Ont.

MR. OBAMA'S APPEARANCE to think that what is good for planet earth is bad for his country



my. Canada's are at a disadvantage due to global climate instability. Whenever my situation, we get closer to a tipping point of runaway global warming. Contrary to the fear of your article, the upcoming Copenhagen climate negotiations are more than a potted speech given in Obama's name. They're a last chance for a workable global agreement to avoid these tipping points. Canada lags behind the rest of the world. Restoring the long-held climate action of the U.S. is a threat to Canada's both insulating and reducing a disastrous ignorance of the real threats.

Elizabeth May, Leader, Green Party of Canada, New Glasgow, N.S.

UNFORTUNATELY, Barack Obama is our president. His priority has to be the country that elected him. He has the toughest job of any American president in history. If Congress makes that our two worst enemies to

pollution, it is a disaster for the President of "sitting in the back." I am confident he will deal with Canada fairly. Let's give him a break.

Sybil Gasky, Harris, Ont.

FLUORIDATION NATION

I AM ALARMED after reading about Lennox Shores Mayor Doug MacIsaac's wish to remove fluoride from the town's water supply ("Fluoride safety from rock farms," *National*, June 26). The cost of water fluoridation is far less than the cost of remedying the effects of its absence. The American Dental Association estimates that every dollar invested in water fluoridation saves \$18 in dental costs. Health Canada's website states that "the big advantage of water fluoridation is that it benefits all residents in a community regardless of age, socio-economic status, education or employment." International agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control have recognized the fluoridation of drinking water to prevent dental decay as "one of the 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century." These are the facts. Anything else is false propaganda.

Dr. Ian Kirkham, President, Ontario Dental Association, Toronto

PEAK INTEREST

AS A PROFESSIONAL engineer, I am certainly a firm believer in human ingenuity and creativity. But when I read from Andrew Potter on "peak oilism" ("Peak water, peak fish and the end of everything," *Opinion*, June 24) is in my opinion with the ever-growing audience between supply and demand is human population continues to escalate unabated. Natural resources are finite, and supply, which raises the inescapable question of whether human ingenuity can meet an indefinitely finite or unlimited demand. History suggests the best measure of human ingenuity is the past is well that I'll be checking out in the next decade or two. The only thing I'll miss is leaving how my grand kids are going to deal with the ever-increasing demand in the face of ever-diminishing supply. There's a challenge for human ingenuity if ever there was one.

Gerald A. Crawford, Mississauga, Ont.

FASCIST BATTLES

HOW REMARKABLE that Maclean's writers are disgusted with each other. With some

good measure than polling, Paul Wells ("The 'fascist' 'march' of Euro-fascists," *Opinion*, June 26) and Mark Steyn ("Why the fascists are winning in Europe," *World*, June 32) are largely provoked about the idea of an armistice in the global provision of a good measure in balance, and in permitting Wells and Steyn to disagree you have given us food for thought on which to remain as ourselves. Keep up the good work.

Al Daniel, Goldsboro, Chatham, Ont.

IF PAUL WELLS is correct, your generous cover story by Mark Steyn was a gross distortion of reality. Wells' article distorts and facts—

wild. But Steyn's essay in many different forms, including elections. Will we recognize the will when it is at the door?

Richard Denton, Ottawa

PERHAPS PAUL WELLS should take a trip to Hungary, Romania or Belgium and see the surge of the extreme right. There are many troops in uniform resembling the brown shirts and black shirts of the past, droning, beating and occasionally killing, torturing and murdering Jews with genocidal threats. The party of these bookies received 17 per cent of the Hungarian vote and sent three members to the European Parliament. I am



SWIMMER Brent Hayden. "Let's put a face to our Canadian athletes," one reader says.

afraid that Mark Steyn is much closer to the facts than Wells is.

Paul J. Mercier, Montreal

ON THE SAME TEAM

SEAN M. MALONEY's article "The Yankees are coming" (*National*, June 21) provides telling description of the imminent arrival of American forces in the south of Afghanistan, but he omits that the Canadian International Development Agency and the Canadian Forces do not work together is, quite simply, false. At our present reconstruction team headquarters in Kandahar City, soldiers, diplomats, and workers, police and correctional services men from across Canada work collaboratively to plan and deliver programs that improve the lives of Afghan citizens. Canada's engagement in Afghanistan is a whole of government effort that is delivering results for Afghan citizens. To conclude otherwise is a disservice to the soldiers and civilians who have served them.

Gen. Wally Nadeau, Chief of Staff, Canadian Forces, Ottawa

Robert Finkbein, Deputy Minister, Department of National Defence, Ottawa

STEPH COLES WAS DISTURBED by the responses to your article on "Wally Nadeau's (mis)adventure camp" (*Mail*, July 6). Some of the responses accuse of "hoax," but many others show that children benefit from segregated activities in the form of learning and playing. Any girl lives to make their more comfortable in any area if their lives will increase their overall self-confidence. Rather than encouraging future bigoted views, this camp is a place to encourage future CEOs.

Sybil Gasky, Toronto, Ont.

THE REAL WINNER

AM I RIGHT that "Phelps gets inside" (*Newsweek*, June 26) talks about how Canadian athlete Brian Hayden broke a record and beat our indigenous Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps? Why, then, would you run a photo of a "really muscular" American athlete coming off a three-month suspension for smoking marijuana? Our beloved athletes are really getting in front of the average Canadian as we get closer to the Vancouver Olympics. I'm more interested in seeing the face of success in athletes like Hayden than I am of seeing the face of a second-place finisher who was recently caught in an illegal act. Let's take every opportunity we can to put a face to our Canadian athletes. They deserve at least that much.

R. P. MacIsaac, Dartmouth, N.S.

FAIR'S FAIR

WHILE I support the military expansion at CFB Trenton, I think it is my land. *National*, June 28, I can understand the plight of land owners who wish to stay on their farms—especially when nicely offered "fair market value." That said, there will be a final call by the Queen's Bench with the development of the base, perhaps that they should show an appreciation by offering a "fighting bonus" to those being moved. Perhaps an added 50 per cent of the property value?

Stephen DeLoe, Kingston, Ont.

POLITICAL COMMENTARY

AS VICTIM CBC political pundit Don Newman said, it would be a federal or provincial election since 1972 (Capital City, June 26). So much for the slogan "If you don't vote you snuff a command."

Douglas L. Martin, Hamilton

We welcome readers to send letters to our editor. Letters may be edited for style and clarity. We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity. We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.



HIGH-SPEED TRAINS IN MARSEILLE In Canada, they'd soon move that a feature and wouldn't even leave the continent

Unnecessary at any speed



ANDREW COYNE

It is a special kind of double-dog dare when someone can resist those who suggest other people's money flows being sent in the hands of asking too many questions at the best of times, and less when even the most vocal and worst of Tardis can be justified as "intimidated." But when a project promises not only the usual thousands of jobs and billions in spinoff benefits, but to save the earth in the bargain, you'd think they'd be falling over themselves to sign on. But some stress, it seems, are just too many.

Here's the latest act in the ongoing, 30-year farce known as high-speed rail. The setting this time is Alberta, but the action is always the same. A consulting firm reports, after many months and millions of dollars, that the latest scheme to link city A to city B by high-speed rail—in this case, Calgary and Edmonton—will cost billions of dollars, in fact billions more than was previously estimated. The politicians take a look at the numbers, blanch, and thank the consultants for their work. The project does not proceed. It never does.

On the other hand, it never seems to die, either. Each study merely becomes fiddler for the seat. This latest report on the merits of a Calgary-Edmonton line is a grand rebuke in the third in Alberta in the last three decades. There have been 16, at last count, as the Quebec City to Windsor corridor, with stops

in 1978 (estimated cost of construction: \$2.4 billion), 1996 (\$4.1 billion), 1991 (\$7.1 billion) and 2005 (\$28.1 billion, including interest and inflation). Did that eye-popping 1999 report finally bury the idea? Nope. It's currently being reviewed by a federal provincial working group.

The dream never dies, because the people pushing high-speed rail are impatient to realize—either because they are desperate to begin with, or because they have a vested interest in illusion. The Alberta report, for example, put the cost of linking Calgary and Edmonton—at 300 km, barely a quarter the journey from Quebec City to Windsor—at anywhere from \$1 billion, for a humble 125-km/hour diesel upgrade, to \$20 billion, for the 300 mph, magnetic levitation special. By 2025, its baseline forecast suggests the train could be carrying between 1.5 million and 5.6 million passengers annually, depending on the technology chosen.

That sounds like a lot, until you consider that the same study estimates total passenger trips between the two cities will have grown to 64 million that year. For an investment of \$1 billion, the train would have secured a 1.8 per cent market share. But pour up \$20 billion, a nearly seven times as much, and it rises to 5.9 per cent—and says there, the proper rates for 2025 are broadly similar. Understand, this is not wildly optimistic endorsement of the idea.

What's clear from even the optimistic numbers in the report is that a Calgary-Edmonton

line would be hopelessly uncompetitive. When-ever technology was used, the estimated net positive value of passenger revenues from 2011 to 2031 would not even cover the costs of construction, let alone the operating costs. And that's before the first shovel in the ground, the first strike, and the first cost overrun. What Albertans would be buying, if the history of these sorts of megaprojects is any guide, would be decades of rising subsidies. Under the circumstances, the response of Alberta's transportation minister was understandable. "No, no, no, no, no, no."

It's at this point that high-speed rail enthusiasts start tapping their foot impatiently. Yes, yes, yes, they say, perhaps it wouldn't be "profitable." But what about the environmental benefits? You can't just measure everything in terms of profit and loss, you know.

No, you can't. But in fact, there are no environmental benefits to high-speed trains, as such. The tracks are unsightly, they consume large amounts of fossil fuels, and they encourage people to live large distances from each other—sprawl, in other words. And the more you subsidize them, the more you encourage all of these things.

What people mean when they talk about the environmental benefits of high-speed rail are the subsidies to environmental harm associated with other modes of transport, notably cars. But these only encourage a large number of people to, in fact, leave their cars at home and take the train. There's some evidence of this. Of these making the journey

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from Edmonton to Calgary today, fully to pay even do so by car. If all goes well, the Alberta study forecasts that, decades from now, that number could be reduced all the way to 90 per cent on the \$1 billion corridor—80 per cent, if you splashed out for the full \$20 billion.

Subsidizing train travel is a genuinely expensive and inefficient way of getting people out of their cars. Most people won't find it enough of an incentive to switch. Others would have taken the train anyway, without a subsidy. And even though you are subsidizing a less wasteful mode of transit, the free remains you are still subsidizing waste.

If you want to make rail travel more attractive, it's not a subsidy you need: it's entrepreneurs who have rekindled their own money, figuring out at night thinking of ways to lure people into their trains. And if you want to encourage people to drive less, there's a far simpler, more direct route: one that does not expose the taxpayer to huge and wasteful risks. It is to charge the full price of using the highways they drive on—road tolls, in other words.

And if this is a difficult train track, why not take the easy way out of driving? Make it more expensive to drive, and I promise people the train will look a lot more appealing in a hurry. ■

ON THE WEB For more Andrew Potter, visit his blog at www.macleans.ca/andrewpotter

When 'free' becomes really expensive



ANDREW POTTER

Myriad is a book with thousands of songs I've never listened to, by bands whose names I don't recognize. The hard drive of my laptop contains dozens of movies I've downloaded and never watched, and if all goes according to the pattern, I will soon have a kind of hell of books I'll never read by authors I don't appreciate. I'm far from alone in this: in the age of digital reproduction, we treat art as a commodity—cheap, ubiquitous, and disposable.

There's been a lot of talk recently about economics in the digital age, thanks to a new book by Wired magazine's editor Chris Anderson called *Free: The Future of a Radical Price*. As Malcolm Gladwell pointed out in his challenging review in *The New Yorker*, Anderson's

book is little more than an extended riff on the old cyberlibertarian slogan, "information wants to be free." Gladwell's review quoted a lot of a free-for-all amongst bloggers, with everyone huzzah-buzzah-gooing Gadsby's Dillards. Meanwhile, every little Cohen chattering in with their own opinions on the matter.

Of course, information doesn't want to be anything. It is just a good life, any other, subject to the usual laws of supply and demand. For common information was scarce, and the heavy demand for news, culture, and other idea-laden goods made them expensive. We now live in a copy-murder world of information abundance, with a glut of ideas chasing an increasingly limited supply of demand, at the limit of a new saturation.

The focus of Anderson's book, along with most of the commentary, is the effect of the "free economy" on the business models of newspapers, magazines and other concepts that make a living by selling small made-of-ideas, when those ideas can be copied at a marginal cost only a shade above zero. But one issue that has been neglected in the discussion is the effect of "free" on art itself, on the nature of aesthetic experience when the only expense is the time it takes to consume it.

Decades ago, the cultural theorist Walter Benjamin wrote a famous essay, famous among cultural studies majors) essay called "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction." Benjamin explored what he called the "aura"—the sense of time and veneration we have in the presence of an original, authentic work of art that has been around at a certain time for a specific ritual, exhibition, or performance.

The age of mechanical reproduction shattered art's aura. With the rise of art films, his art and photography, the question of which is the "original" ceases to make any sense, and artistic experience was cut loose from the requirements to be in a specific place and time. When a quote opens "in recent years everywhere," everyone who sees it has the direct experience.

Benjamin saw this as a mixed blessing. He was wary of how the mechanical reproduction of art pushed it into the service of easy and frequently totalitarian politics. But at the same time, he conceded that widespread access to art had democratizing influence, making its consumption and appreciation out of the hands of the power-breakers and the elite.

In the age of digital culture, it is not just access to art that has been democratized, but its production as well. What we are seeing now is the full-blown end of the Romantic ideal of every individual as a creative spirit: as millions of amateurs flood the Internet with their own songs, videos, photographs and stories. As a result, millions have to go to increasingly strenuous lengths to capture a share of the public's attention—a couple of months ago, for example, the musician Moby looked an entire year to find a journalist could listen to his new album while getting a massage.

Another delightful example of the attention economy at work comes courtesy of a fan of under-the-hill hero Sufjan Stevens. In 2007, Stevens held a contest, in which he awarded the rights to a new song, *The Lonely Hallelujah*, to a New York theatre director named Alex Duffy. While Stevens gave him the recording rights to do whatever he wanted with the song (develop it, use it to sell new models, etc.), most the unexpected that Duffy would just put a ceiling for all to hear. Instead, he decided that the only place to hear the song would be in his living room.

Sufjan Stevens has now made pilgrimage to Duffy's Brooklyn apartment, where he serves tea, plays the song a few times, and then sends them on their way with a bag of cookies, a sure they'll never hear again already fading in their minds.

So we are starting to see a turn toward forms of artistic experience that by their nature can't be digitized. In many ways, it marks a deliberate return to folk art: local, often, based around works that are transient, ephemeral, and not portable. What this involves is the rehabilitation of the old idea of the unique, authentic work having an aura that makes it worthy of our profound respect. But in a reversal of Walter Benjamin's analysis, the gain in deep artistic appreciation is balanced by a loss in egalitarian principle.

It also involves the return of power brokers and elitism, who ration access to art and parcel it out at whim. After all, not every Sufjan Stevens fan can afford to fly to New York City just to hear a song, and not every musician can afford to rent out a marriage parlour to carry business with economy. It turns out that in the attention economy, it profound as that, artistic experience becomes something that is free to those who can afford it, and very expensive to those who cannot. ■

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DEMANDING TIMES

Public workers have it better already. By asking for more, they've sparked anger and envy.

BY JASON KIRBY • The three-week strike by municipal workers in Toronto has generated a mix of emotions: sympathy, anger and envy. For working parents who rely on city-run day care, that the strike has also brought with it something else: the sudden realization that not all jobs in Canada are created equal.

In what many would call the real world, an economic earthquake has shattered lives, missed nearly 400,000 jobs, and obliterated a lifetime of retirement savings, hopes and dreams. Yet despite that, public sector workers with area-based pensions and redefined job security have opted to wage a battle for pay hikes and the type of arcane perks that were almost withheld of the private sector, even when times were good. "Everyone who works within a large apparatus like the government believes that while world conditions may, in fact, it doesn't," says Ed Mallon, chief economist with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB). "There's a distinct lack of appreciation for what's changed outside in the real world."

Union demands such increments as the next wage increase in the range of three per cent a year, in line with what most employees and public received last year through inflation. But public duty has created a new twist on the workers' sick-day bank. Area standards, many city workers can now use their accrued paid sick days, up to 35 a year, and cash out up to six months' worth when they retire. The sick bank has left a \$20-million unfunded liability on the city's books, which is why other regions around Toronto have done away with them. But CUPE is adamant the sick-day bank cannot be unattached. "The city is passing the bill to us," says Ed Mallon, president of CUPE Local 79, and secretary. Meanwhile in Windsor, a letter writer by the name of already into its third month. Workers voted nearly on the city's attempt to cash out their retirement benefits for future workers, such as medical benefits. Paul Moore, the national president of CUPE, which represents striking workers in both areas, says the dispute happened because employees tried



CUPE is trying to protect its sick bank—but what regular workers get paid like that?

to take away well-established benefits. "I think the reaction is being used to go against other because workers are vulnerable," he says.

The big question in Ottawa is this: just what, has drivers rejected a seven per cent pay raise over three years and then down the capital's transit system for seven weeks after the city tried to curtail their right to set their own schedules. In Calgary and Edmonton, municipal workers landed contracts in May that offered pay raises of between 3.5 to 4.5 per cent this year and more. And in S.C., strong penicillin, who say other emergency workers earn more than they do, are asking an average seven per cent raise each year for the next three years.

To say all this has left regular workers feeling better paid is a reality. "The whole public sector is going to get crushed," by the strike in Toronto, says Minister Marleau, a labour sector professor at York University. "There are outrageous things in some public sector contracts and people are wondering, 'What

is this about? Why do you get that?'"

Much of what's driving government sector unions is the deeply ingrained belief that everyone deserves better off. It's not enough to have the freedom that government workers get the private sector by 10 to 20 per cent. "The private sector has been demonstrably ahead of the public sector," says Moore. For instance, he says, the government has had a terrible track record of people who make more money than they do in the private sector. Never mind the fact that at the time, Canada was the middle of government's economy and housing boom, which has since been followed by an equally epic bust for that "busting private sector" construction workers particularly hard.

At one time, the unions' argument was justified. For decades many public sector workers lagged the private sector by pay. Until the 1960s most federal and provincial employees had no collective bargaining rights whatsoever, and they weren't allowed to go on strike. As recently as 1991, a report by the

Pro Research Bureau found that average wages in the federal government trailed those of private sector employees by 1 per cent.

But there's been a dramatic shift since then. Stronger and better organized unions have virtually sealed the gap. At the same time, many labour disputes often end when legislators intervene and the matter goes sent to binding arbitration. The problem is, according to Marleau, arbitration typically adds between one and 1.5 per cent more to a wage increase than would have been negotiated otherwise. In this way and others, many unionized government employees have largely caught up to other workers.

The bottom line is that since 1991, when the Canadian Federation of Independent Business published its most recent comparison of public and private sector wages, based on 2005 census data, the lobby group found



long-term if you want the public to support government policy," he says.

It's not just pay business groups that have criticized public sector workers are doing just fine. In 2006, the Treasury Board of Canada released a 600-page analysis of federal employee compensation. It found that any lag federal employees once suffered has long since vanished. Between 1991 to 2001 the average public sector salary jumped by 13.8 per cent, compared to a 7.5 per cent jump among other unionized workers. In all but the most senior executive positions within the government, the report found, public sector workers enjoy equal or superior pay job growth in the public sector has been outpacing that of the private sector. In 2005, last year the gap widened further, with employment rising in the public sector by 6.1 per cent, compared to just 5.9 per cent in the private sector and among the self-employed.

The debate over who faces better is certain to rage on. One reason is the lack of detailed industry-wide public sector pay among all levels of government. Don't expect such probing self-analysis any more soon, says Malcolm Hamilton, in strategy with Mercer. Government would rather not know how the sector as they pay stack up. "You're likely to find your pay is better compared to others if you think your pay is high, and I suspect many of the treasury departments believe the pay is high and they'd rather not know." Another reason to keep their heads buried is the sense of the purpose of what each side creation would unleash. If a thoroughly funded federal compensation in government exceeded that of other workers, there would be intense pressure to cut back on salaries and other perks. "There aren't many ways in that and there may be a lot of strikes," he says. "So it's not the kind of thing the government wants to deal with."

A RECENT STUDY found federal government workers now make 17 per cent more than their private sector counterparts

public sector workers regularly pay a double-digit premium over their private sector counterparts. For instance, the GRIK looked at 1996 federal government occupations where a comparison could be made to the private sector and found government employees earned 17.3 per cent more in salary on average. Workers under the City of Toronto, meanwhile, could have a 16 per cent more. Unions data the study, saying it compares "down to the dollar" figures," but the CIB's Marleau says comparisons were only made across like jobs, such as labourers and accountants. "There are massive differences in compensation that are not sustainable once the

One tactic often used by union leaders to parry their demands is to highlight the well-known pay packages of corporate executives in the private sector. But while they're right—CEO pay can be mind-bogglingly high—when you lay beyond those privileged few to look at the masses rolling away below them, the public sector is doing no better. "It's not my intention to bring, but the gap has diminished," says Craig Alexander, deputy chief economist at TD Bank. "I'm not comparing CEOs to the head of government department heads. But at most executive levels the gap between public and private sector executives has diminished over the years." Alexander has seen this within his own field. Senior government contractors occasionally find of leaving the restrictive confines of the public sector for high private sector salaries, and they're in to calculate the value of their overall benefits and pension, he says. In

fact, Bay Street economists have a joke about those who have second thoughts about savings. "It's a test of the quality of the economist, whether they go through the exercise of including the benefits," says Alexander. The punchline: anyone concerned with his or her would not advise the rich government pension and benefits are too good to leave behind.

The fact is, it's interestingly rare to find employees in the private sector willing to offer the types of pensions most government workers take for granted. Pensions basically come in two types, defined benefits and defined contribution plans. Defined benefits plans are the Cadillac of the pension world because they guarantee a fixed payout in retirement. The retirement income from defined contribution plans, on the other hand, depends entirely on how much a contributor and how well the money is invested. Currently, roughly 80 per cent of public sector employees have the gold-plated plan, while barely 13 per cent of private sector workers have any employee-sponsored pension plan at all. Of those that do have a plan, more and more are only offered the defined contribution option.

The dwindling number of private sector workers with pension plans tells just a tiny part of the story. It's hard to come by just how lucrative a public sector pension is, because the tax and actuarial rules surrounding pensions are mind-numbingly complex.

Last November, James Petric, a pension lawyer at Twiss Petric, set out to cut through the middle. In his report, Petric's conclusion would be: "Angus and Brad, who have gone from jobs at Courtyard and Dave, who work in the private sector. All are the same age, and each person starts \$50,000 a year in retirement. The results were shocking. By the time they retire, Angus and Brad will have amassed retirement savings amounting to \$1.2 million between them, compared to just \$248,900 for Courtney and Dave."

Why do Angus and Brad come out so far ahead, while Courtney and Dave must make do with retirement savings? For one thing, most government pension funds are indexed to inflation, ensuring they aren't eroded by rising consumer prices. In most public sector pensions, retirement payments are also calculated based on an employee's typical salary year. But rules rarely give defined benefit plan members a staggering advantage over most other workers. In any given year a worker with a defined contribution plan and RRSPs can only pay into a total of 18 per cent of his income. For the combined contributions of government workers and their employers can be the mid-40s. A 35-year career could equal 30 per cent of an employee's salary. Take, for instance, a 55-year-old government worker with three decades under his belt and



CURRENTLY, 80 per cent of public workers have a gold-plated pension plan, while barely 23 per cent of private sector workers have an employer-funded plan at all

a \$60,000 salary would effectively have contributed more of more than \$15,000. The same worker in the private sector would be restricted to an RRSP limit of just over \$11,000. "I will never argue that public sector workers shouldn't have good pensions, but here is a fact that these rules have been structured from the beginning to give an opportunity to one class of worker that isn't available to another class," Petric adds. "It's appalling and it's immoral."

Union leaders like Brown argue that any suggestion that government workers enjoy better pensions at the expense of taxpayers is unfounded because, he says, they pay dearly for their pensions. For another way, Angus and Brad, for instance, may have to live on less while they're working because they're forced to save more. But even so, the standard of living that public sector employees now enjoy in retirement is absolutely laugh-off compared to other workers, and it's getting

THE GOVERNMENT did have trouble hiring workers, but that was during the boom

more and more so. The median retirement age for public sector workers, for instance, has fallen steadily since the late 1980s to 58. Not so with private sector workers, who typically taught it out to at least 64. With the obligation of private retirement savings over the last year, experts say it's likely many workers will have to toil into their 70s—long after most public sector workers the same age will have retired into their cottages.

This problem will continue to grow, Pierle says, unless government radically reforms the retirement system. He says the 18 per cent contribution limit should be scrapped, in favour of a lifetime tax-deferred savings limit of, say, \$1.5 million, a move that fits with made in 2006. The rules that require pension plans to be sponsored by employers should also be tossed out, so workers can pool their retirement savings in large, target benefit plans set up by trade associations, or financial institutions. For many workers it's already too late, but the changes would help ensure pension inequality doesn't become entrenched for generations to come.

As for the thorny issue of pay and perks like sick-day banks, Materile says governments and Crown corporations have boosted expenditures by sprinkling their pension demands in the last decade. With some major public sector contracts set to expire over the next couple of years, managers need to make it clear now that many of the perks that unions have cherished for 30 years have become anachronistic. "The way to do this is to put everybody on notice now and say, 'Look, things have changed!'" he says.

Of course, the ideal solution for most workers would be to raise private sector benefits to public sector levels, rather than reduce everyone to the lowest common denominator. Unfortunately, with the economy the way it is, that seems unlikely. The solution may be a less happy medium instead—but one thing is clear: hiking taxes on already beleaguered private sector workers to pay for increasingly deluxe benefits for the public sector is not an option. With public workers raising taxes from the piles of garbage in Toronto and Windsor, it's a message that the public sector and their government employees can no longer ignore. ■

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REMEMBERING ACHIEVO

"He was a proud and determined supporter of the French language, both at home and abroad. He said it in his name of the French language, in particular the accents, idioms and phrases of his Académie, where he took his life breath, facing the ocean that crested him in his youth."—Governor Michelle Jean, speaking fondly of former governor general Roméo Levesque, who died on June 26 after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's.



Pipeline bombs fuel fear

Locals worry about their safety, and the RCMP's investigation

BY MICHAEL KOSHYR • Our morning last June, a handful of villagers in Tumbeko, B.C., a small community just south of Dawson Creek, gathered around just one fence when the RCMP arrived to look at a new natural gas well. The residents, worried about the health and safety impacts of the development, didn't so much block workers from the job site as they did stare them out and downsize. They did the same when security arrived last, later,

endangering our families with every expansion of deadly gas wells in our home lands." Though locals don't condemn the bombings, the letter articulated a general sense of unease in the Peace River region over the swift pace of development there, as well as worry that oil and gas in this area is being built too close to homes and schools. But such health and safety concerns are now overshadowed by fear at the bombing (or bombings) and a sense of being caught in the wide RCMP net set in each town.

Paranoia is widespread. In Dawson Creek, residents talk of neighbours who spoke too loudly of the bombings in local coffee shops,

the RCMP, part of an investigation that recently snagged Alberta co-subsider Wabco Ltd. in its role in the case.

Not the RCMP but the war of drumming the Whistler campaign. Only after last week's explosion did an RCMP spokesman call the EnCana blasts "domestic terrorism," a shift against a conservative local politician, head of the National Security Criminal Investigation unit, says it does not reflect a change in strategy. The force has now dispatched a Vancouver-based anti-terrorism squad, he notes. "Now that we're into the fifth and sixth blast, we anticipate that there will be a seventh and an eighth and a ninth. We absolutely have to find this person." (University of Calgary professor Robert Gosselin says he believes the force now speaks of "terrorism" because, he says, "They're going to involve the full counter-terrorism tool box"—including surveillance provisions.)

The explosion have so far resulted in no deaths or injuries, though it seems only a matter of time before some one gets hurt. "If he's got some sort of alibi, he's not a person who's got to be worried that there are people who are scared that there are people who are scared of these explosions," says Paul Jones. That a person has targeted EnCana to put up a \$100,000 reward for tips leading to an arrest and prosecution. Still, the bomber strikes as twisted, somehow even failing to show up on security cameras.

Some from the disfigurement where he sent his letter. "Whoever he is, he's the man," they're not sure anymore," says University of Alberta co-ordinator researcher Paul Jones.

Police admit they've received law public to cooperate in this case and others, and acknowledge how much they need the help—some names over gas development concerns.

But that doesn't rub salt in the wound for those behind the blasts. "They have in their own head some sort of noble pursuit, which may initially have been a disservice to the state of oil and gas development," says Paul Jones. "We've got to get the typical criminal mind got sucked in to the excitement and the criminality that they're engaged in." It's a state for the first time that will not only put the bomber in court. "These people can get back to their lives, and disengage from whatever they want to disengage about." ■

Queen costs us more than the Brits pay

BY KATE ENGLISH • Robert Fitch has a favorite saying. "For the price of a cup of coffee, Canadians can enjoy the stability of the Crown." By this, the chief operating officer of the Monarchist League of Canada means that the monarchy costs Canadians only 53 per cent as much, about the price of a large cup of joe at Tim Hortons. But in fact, Canadians are now paying more per capita to support the Queen than the British are.

According to the latest figures from Buckingham Palace, while Canadians are shelling out 53 per cent as much, the British are only paying out \$1.32. And the Monarchist League's own numbers show the Canadian cost is skyrocketing. Over the last 10 years, the per capita bill for supporting the monarchy has more than doubled—excluding expenses incurred by third-party firms on Canadian soil, as well as the cost of running the office of the Governor General and our 10 provincial lieutenant governors—has more than doubled.

Fitch says that the climbing costs reflect the fact that the Queen's trips are taking on more active roles, with heightened responsibility and increased time. While disfigure-

ment promises and other officials. Fitch says it "seems that, for example, that Ontario lieutenant governor simply runs staff members, and 'shocking' that the B.C. office shells out piles of cash each year to run a 100-room official residence for its lieutenant governor. As for the "highly involved" Governor General? "The Governor General has literary awards and cuts ribbons and plants trees and travels to Asia and all that kind of stuff. But what else?"

Fitch counters that the Crown's stabilizing presence is worth the money. He accounts for Canadians' more stable bill with more mundane explanations: no smaller population, for instance. He also explains that there have been more court advances when it comes to the monarchy, since the U.K. receives income tax from royal estates and we don't. In the end, it's a small price to pay, he says, to safeguard Canada's democratic tradition.

Despite such arguments, a series of Fitch and his Canadian Republicans are working in the court of public opinion. According to a Canada Day poll by Strategic Counsel, only 18 per cent of Canadians feel a connection to the Queen or Governor General. And 64 per cent think that the monarchy should be cut out of the Queen's life.

Fitch can't mention that as support for his growth-minded position is completely on his mind. He calls for the Governor General to be replaced by "a highly



Over the past 38 years, the Canadian cost of supporting the monarchy has more than doubled.

Canadian citizen." An independent head of state, accountable only to Canadians, says, he admits, that would still cost money. "But Canadians wouldn't mind spending on an institution that they can call their own."

While 11.5 million may not seem very far at all, Fitch hopes the cost-cutting cost of supporting the Queen will cut the weight of change in motion. It's not even about the money, he says. "It's the 21st century. We're going to be an independent country, we should be better off like it." ■

The brewing fight for pet-free flights

BY STEPHANIE FINKLER • When Air Canada banned pets from aircraft cabins in 2006, pet owners were furious. But many say the airline's recent decision to reverse that ban was a huge mistake, and just puts pet owners at risk—and may even put lives at risk.

As of Canada Day, dogs and cats can travel with their owners on certain airlines or economy Air Canada flights, as long as they're not current or under the airline's rules. The plan, which was recently announced as part of Air Canada's "newest commitment to the customer," is a first, allows pet owners to register their pets 24 hours before the flight, as long as they pay a \$100 or \$150 fee.

But the Lung Association says the decision will not only make flying dangerous for pet owners with asthma or allergies, it's not even popular with the numerous Air Canada is trying to serve. According to a survey ordered by the association last month, 90 per cent of Canadians want airlines to offer pet-free flights, and 75 per cent expect action from the federal government to change the policy.

"We don't want to go to a situation where they get a severe reaction on the plane," says Catherine Bialyk, a spokeswoman for the Lung Association. "There are children, there are people who have COPD [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease], who can have life-threatening reactions if their trigger pollutants are pet hair and dander." He adds that the Lung Association was not consulted by Air Canada before the decision was reversed, and he now hopes to bring the issue before the federal health commission.

Previously, allergy sufferers had the choice between pet-free Air Canada, and WestJet, which has always allowed pets. But now Air Canada says of allergic customers and up on a flight with pets, they have to re-book 24 hours in advance. There's no guarantee the next flight will be pet-free either, and the regular flight will be re-booking only.

Bill Swan, re-chair of the National Asthma Patient Alliance, says that isn't right. "The issue is not the rights of airline passengers above the animal passengers." ■



Allergic to Fluffy? You can re-book at your expense.



Investigations at one of the bomb sites, RCMP Cpl. Dave Mackintosh addresses concerns.



when media came to report on the day's events, which ended as peacefully as they'd begun. Today, many of those who participated in the three-day fourth anniversary in RCMP but of suspicion on EnCana pipeline bombings that began in October, were dormant in January, and started again last week with two new explosions—one on Canada Day, the other on American Independence Day. The major people that are so far last, every single one of them was on that list," one told Al Jazeera in a telephone interview. "It wouldn't surprise me right now if you and I weren't being hit next."

The mystery surrounding the bombings, which have inspired nearly four gas installations in northern B.C. the gas is "too" because it contains toxic hydrogen sulfide—has only deepened since the first blast. This explosion was preceded by handwritten letters sent to EnCana and two local news outlets demanding a complete investigation into the Tumbeko area, says one of the area's residents. "We will no longer negotiate with terrorists, which you are as you keep



only to find police knocking at their doors. I want to know if you are to discuss the issue with media, would it be to be sought out by someone? Often when they get outside of gas development have already made them suspect. Police say they've got to work, demand DNA and hand writing samples, only to return again and again for repeated grillings. "They've got natural gas," he says. "We've got a natural gas. There's even talk of a gas pipeline, just as an earlier version, the Alberta Energy Company, said did in cohorts with



But that doesn't rub salt in the wound for those behind the blasts. "They have in their own head some sort of noble pursuit, which may initially have been a disservice to the state of oil and gas development," says Paul Jones. "We've got to get the typical criminal mind got sucked in to the excitement and the criminality that they're engaged in." It's a state for the first time that will not only put the bomber in court. "These people can get back to their lives, and disengage from whatever they want to disengage about." ■

ANDREW WATSON/ANDREW WATSON/ANDREW WATSON

NEW RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

How can Obama pursue diplomacy with Iran if its leader is illegitimate?

BY LIZBETH SAVAGE Barack Obama can prout on a policy of engagement with America's adversaries, and this inauguration address alluded to "open hand" to countries such as Iran. After his election, he had even more degree of support in Washington's foreign-policy circles of diplomacy. But then came the June 12 Iranian election that reelected President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to power under heavy suspicion of fraud. With a crackdown on mass street protests that left at least 17 dead, Obama's room for engagement has shrunk. The turmoil in Iran raised the question of whether Obama would only behave Ahmadinejad's authority by staying down with leaders whose policies he has no interest in. But to maintain how the U.S. government would treat any agreement reached with a regime that its own people accuse of deception, and whether the secret would only serve to betray the reformers whose struggle for freedom stirred passions around the world.

For now, Obama's hand remains out stretched—but not for long. He has given Tehran, at the end of the year, a deadline to show that diplomacy regarding its nuclear ambitions is getting somewhere. But even long time supporters are doubting that the overture can work.

The U.S. President kept a low profile after the disputed Iranian election, and was criticized by hawkish such as Senator John McCain for not denouncing the election results as encouraging the protesters. While Obama said he had concerns about the vote, he insisted that he would not be drawn into the narrative: the mistake were being to create that foreign powers were leaving the scene. When Obama finally spoke out, it was to vote down the violence. But he emphasized that it was up to the Iranian people to pick their leaders. "The approach worked, as one event in official Iranian news, Tehran issued much of its blame on the U.S., even moving workers at the British Embassy. For once, the target was not Tehran's "Green Square."

As he waits for events in Iran to play out, Obama is aware that without Iran's own story emerges victorious from the power struggle—Ahmadinejad or the Hassan Rouhani-led reform coalition—Tehran's march toward nuclear power. And despite Tehran's insistence that it wants the technology for peaceful means, the prospect of Iran obtaining a nuclear reactor (Obama's post-mortem concern) is a major upshot of the global nuclear crisis conference in Moscow this week after meeting with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

In the Middle East, there is deep concern about Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons capability," he said, "not simply because of one country wanting nuclear weapons, but the fact that if Iran obtained nuclear weapons it is almost certain that other countries in the region would thus decide to pursue their own programs. And we would then see a nuclear arms race in perhaps the most volatile part of the world."

Given Obama's concerns, the Iranian opposition is worried about the U.S. President's



Iran's "governing elites are going through a struggle that has been mirrored globally and powerfully on the streets," Obama said.

"That's going to be very important." The words also discussed a global nuclear system that could be based by Russia. And without mentioning Iran by name, Medvedev indicated he shared Washington's concerns about Tehran's nuclear ambitions. "It's our common, joint responsibility, and we should do our utmost to prevent any negative trends there," he said. "And we are ready to do that. Our negotiations with President Obama have demonstrated that we share the same attitude toward this problem."

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned Western nations that if they "meddle" in Iranian politics, Iranians will "use to against their enemies as one fist." That seems unlikely, given the rift within Iran's ruling elite. On July 4, while meeting with relatives of those detained after the election, former president Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who supported Khamenei, and the post-election events had caused "interference." Though Rafsanjani denied there was a power struggle, this influential cleric, who heads the Assembly of Experts that appoints and removes the supreme leader, couldn't hide his criticism of the government. "I don't think that [any body with a] slightest conscience is satisfied with the current situation." And the next day a group of high-level clerics from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps called for Khamenei to be tried as a traitor and flee the country. Tellingly, in a speech on state radio, Khamenei called for national unity while appearing to ignore his critics. "Friends should not be treated like enemies for the sake of a mistake," the supreme leader said.

True to form, Obama remained hopeful Iran's "young men are also going through a struggle that has been mirrored peacefully and powerfully on the streets," he said, after meeting Medvedev. "The fact that we have both said we are willing to work with Iran, at the same time as we have been very clear about our grave deep concerns with respect to Iran, is not just the violence, has created a space where the international community can potentially join and pressure Iran more effectively."

But the President said it will take time to see whether diplomacy can achieve anything. Ultimately, "it's going to have to come from a country like Russia, for example, to willing to work with us to apply pressure on Iran to take a path toward international respectability as opposed to the path they're on," Obama said. "That's not something we're going to lower the results of last year's election results as a consequence today the hard diplomatic work of putting this coalition together to tell Iran 'Make the better choice.'"

THE PROSPECT OF IRAN OBTAINING A NUKE REMAINS OBAMA'S TOP CONCERN

among Obama's top concerns. As he speaks in Moscow, Iranian Minister Mahdi Malekzadeh told the Washington Times, "We are about 10 years away from having a nuclear weapon. We will sign a deal with an American president, even though it is an illegal government that has not been elected." But for now, Obama is focused on staying the diplomatic course, although the administration is emphasizing the priority of multilateral meetings with the so-called P5+1 group of countries—the permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany—not a personal one-to-one with Obama.

In fact, Vice President Joe Biden tried to promote diplomacy as a condition of the reform movement. Asked how Washington can continue dialogue with Tehran without "breaking the faith with the reformers," Biden told ABC's George Stephanopoulos, "Well, the way you do it is if they choose to move with the P5, it means they begin to change course. And it means that the protesters probably had some impact on the behavior of administration." But, Biden said, Washington is "not talking to do down" with Tehran. "There's already an official out there by the permanent plus one treaty we're prepared to live down and give that nobody is going to your nuclear program. And it's the ball's in their court."

But even supporters of the engagement policy are now hearing that doubts about its prospects. "The main difference between now and four weeks ago is I am far, far less optimistic about the prospects for any kind of successful engagement. Even staying down at the table is going to be more difficult," says

Suzanne Maloney, an Iran specialist at the Sabar Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank. There have been two important changes in Iran since the election, notes Maloney. The hard-line elite have either silenced or expelled many of those with more moderate points of view, and disempowered reformers or more pragmatic elements of the regime. Second, they have prepared a narrative of the election created on an extremely distorted conspiracy of the world seeking to impose a violent revolution. "If that's their mindset, it's hard to imagine they will be willing to deal with American diplomats and negotiators," says Maloney, who nonetheless believes Obama should continue to try to engage Tehran.

But the turmoil in Iran has made Obama's policy of engagement less promising, it may have made a potential P5+1 of multilateral summations possible. "Whether or not there was an European capital will have been a mitigated by violence after the election," notes Maloney. Russia and China, who are key to any successful sanctions, have long been reluctant to confront Iran. But Obama seemed to make some advance with Moscow the week, when Russia and the U.S. agreed to jointly conduct an assessment of the threat that Iran's nuclear capabilities could pose to their countries. "We will be conducting a review of that and making assessments to find ways that the United States and Russia can cooperate more effectively," Obama said.



JIM THOMAS/REUTERS; DAVID S. JACKSON



AN ARMED INSURGENT in Mogadishu. Somalia's so-called government controls barely a few blocks of the country's embattled capital

A STATE OF TERROR

Somalia may become the world's next extremist stronghold

BY MICHAEL PETROU • When a *Washington Post* reporter reached Somali journalist Abdi Ahmed Abdi on his cellphone as he walked back to his home through the streets of Mogadishu, he quickly picked the call, speaking later that evening by explaining that he would get the ask for him to be heard speaking English by members of al-Shabab—the Islamic militants that control much of the country and whose leadership has been linked to al-Qaeda. “I am scared,” Abdi said. “If they see me talking to somebody in English, I’ll be under fire. If anybody is speaking in English, they think he is a spy. I remember I was passing information to foreigners, what they call CIA spies or informers, people they don’t like.”

Abdi lives near one of the main markets in Mogadishu, a place he calls a “trading hall of the Shabab.” He asked that he not be named, but he was not. “If they read this, they will

come and look for me and blow my brain up.” His family has fled twice to other parts of the country. He’s considered leaving his wife, but is now afraid to try.

Abdi’s description of Somalia under al-Shabab is similar to that of Afghanistan during the Taliban’s rule. Al-Shabab’s rule is guided by a medieval and repressive interpretation of Islam, and it has attracted foreign jihadists—who may have international ambitions—in Somalia.

This spring, Abdi says, two teenage boys and a teenage girl were sentenced to be hanged 300 times for having sex in public. The sentence had never been carried out, but in June, four men accused of stealing cellphones all had a hand or foot hacked off with machetes after they were convicted by an al-Shabab Islamic court. And in October, a 15-year-old rape victim was stoned to death in front of some 1,000 spectators. “It happens—the rapes, the stoning, no death, the whippings, the flogging, many things,” they tell women to wear the hijab. They banned films. They even control the memory cards of mobile

phones to check if there are pornography films or films that are anti-Islamic. No cinema. No music. They even force people to pray.”

Al-Shabab, meaning “the Youth” in Arabic, grew out of the Islamic Courts Union, which briefly controlled Somalia in 2006. Ethiopian troops and covert American Special Forces toppled the Islamic Courts Union in 2006 and 2007, and a “national” government was installed in its place. The most radical elements from the ICU then formed new Islamic groups, such as al-Shabab, to oppose the government. “They are Islamists,” he says. The government, which since January has been led by Sheikh Sharif Ahmed, Ahmed was previously leader of the Islamic Courts Union. It had a hand in the Islamic Courts Union’s rise to power in 2006.

Al-Shabab won money and arms from Somali under-the-table deals, from wealthy Arabs in the Gulf, and from Kenya. Along with its allies, it controls all but a few pockets of Somalia outside the de facto autonomous regions of Somaliland and Puntland—the latter of which has become famous of late as an

eyesore for piracy. The Transitional Federal Government has not been toppled because of the protection of some 4,000 African Union soldiers. In its barely extends over a few square blocks of Mogadishu. In recent weeks, Somalia’s security matters. One of the leaders, who was killed in an al-Shabab suicide car bomb attack, and scores of parliamentarians have left the country. Barely half remain. “There are 100 of them left in the opposition camps, but the presidential palace,” says Abdi.

Abdi says most Somalis don’t support the Shabab, but are “ruled by fear.” Some will fight against it. When militants desecrated graves and mosques sacred to followers of the spiritual Sufi branch of Islam, normally peaceful Sufis took up arms in the aid of the government against al-Shabab, defeating them in several battles in central Somalia.

In a country that has not had functioning government for almost 20 years, and where most of the population is malnourished, the fighting has made an already devastating humanitarian disaster even worse. Tens of thousands have fled Mogadishu in recent months, and already there are some 250,000 Somali refugees in Kenya. Denmark’s UNHCR, deputy director of the Africa Program at the International Crisis Groups, describes their conditions as “dire in all respects.” And, she told *Al-Monitor*, “The Somali situation is one of the worst, if not the worst, situation on the continent.”

What most worries the United States and other Western governments, however, is not the humanitarian crisis, but the possibility that Somalia may become a base for international terrorism.

Many of the captives are there already. Al-Shabab has sheltered around 10,000 men and women, including al-Qaeda operatives in Afghanistan and conducted numerous attacks against foreigners in Somalia before it was killed in a U.S. air strike last year, and Paul Abdullahi Mohamud, who is wanted by the United States for his alleged involvement in the 1998 U.S. embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania.

Al-Shabab has also opened its camps to international jihadists. The suicide bomber who killed four South Korean tourists in Yemen in March was trained in Somalia, according to Yemeni sources, and might have been the attacker who blew himself up in an attempt to murder the South Korean ambassador and investigators a few days later.

Even the emergency inside Somalia has taken on international dimensions. Osama bin Laden, in a March radio address, described the conflict as “a war between Islam and the international crusade.” Al-Shabab echoes that. “They don’t recognize borders,” says Abdi. “They say this world is for Muslims, and there is no difference between an Algerian and a Somali. They do not see the word ‘foreigner’ to describe a non-Somali fighting alongside them.”

There are four fighters in the ranks of al-Shabab are another worry. Abdi says al-Shabab is longer tries to hide their presence. They sometimes allow the world and number at least 1,000, according to J. Peter Phelan, an Africa security specialist at James Madison University who has worked in Somalia and elsewhere in East Africa.

“The danger is not only that these fighters operate there,” Phelan says, “but also that there are others in Somalia from the diaspora who are

AL-SHABAB HAS WELCOMED FOREIGN JIHADISTS INTO ITS RANKS AND CAMPS



A WAR-HAVENED building provides cover for extremist fighters in Mogadishu. It is a makeshift refugee camp.

coming in to fight in Somalia, including young men from the United States and western Europe. The real danger is that while there, they link up with other non-Somali extremists who may have signed a deal to directly attack or at least target the United States and its allies. “We have already seen what might have been a precursor to such action,” in October 2008, a series of suicide bombings in Somalia’s capital, Hargeisa, killed at least 70 people. One of the bombers was an American of Somali origin.

So what could the United States do to prevent the danger coming from Somalia? It’s a tricky question, in part because all too often it’s not responsible to know just how serious a threat to America’s life line. This is especially so in Somalia, where, according to a knowledgeable source, the CIA has a really “an agent” at a time on the ground. “We know who and where they are,” the source says.

“One of the problems that the United States



faces is that there are a lot of poorly governed spaces around the world where al-Qaeda, or affiliates of al-Qaeda, or even affiliates of al-Qaeda could potentially set up shop,” says Stephen Haggard, a senior fellow for defense policy at the Council on Foreign Relations, who previously taught at the U.S. Army War College. “If every time one of those comes up on the radar screen we decide that it’s going to require a massive effort by the United States to respond, then we’ll bankrupt ourselves.”

Other elements are taking measures to fight in Somalia, including young men from the United States and western Europe. The real danger is that while there, they link up with other non-Somali extremists who may have signed a deal to directly attack or at least target the United States and its allies. “We have already seen what might have been a precursor to such action,” in October 2008, a series of suicide bombings in Somalia’s capital, Hargeisa, killed at least 70 people. One of the bombers was an American of Somali origin.

“It comes down to this question: can we intervene without doing harm?” says John D. Stanton, an international affairs fellow

at the Council on Foreign Relations. "If you want to deal with it properly, you're looking at an Iraq-style investment, where 20,000 peacekeepers isn't going to do it—maybe 40,000, maybe 60,000. You're talking about building a government and security forces from the ground up. It's going to be a 10-year effort. And there's going to be a lot of violence in the short term as there was in Iraq."

Ahmad Abdulhadi Aden, a former president of Omani and deputy prime minister of Somalia until Sheikh Yusuf Ahmed's government was sworn in January, hopes that the international community will shoulder this burden. In an interview with *Maadani*, he drew comparisons between Somalia and Afghanistan and argued that the international response should be similar. He wants the United Nations to send troops. While some Somalis would reject unconditional surrender, Aden@adnews.com

there in the process, and they didn't want to be a part of it. So anyone who now says there needs to be a dialogue with them simply doesn't understand the reality of the situation."

It is difficult to imagine much room for compromise ground between al-Shabab and any Western-backed governments. President Ahmed agreed to implement sharia, or Islamic law, but a constitution drafted by al-Shabab as an infant's rattle. His father declared him to be an apostate.

**IN SPITE OF THE CHAOS,
INTERVENTION BY THE
WEST WOULD LIKELY
FUEL RESENTMENT**



would accept it as necessary. "Sometimes are telling each other every day hate on the streets, so why wouldn't they accept anyone who is coming to save them?"

But any large-scale intervention in Somalia would require a massive American contribution. And with its heads full on Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, it's unlikely the United States would contemplate such an investment. The least less-narrow option

Some analysts, such as Dorech Krolick, believe al-Shabab and its allies need to be brought into the government. "We have to offer something to those people to share the cake," she says. "There is no way around negotiations with the insurgency." And so, the former deputy prime minister, explains that view naïve. "This is what we tried to do in 2008 when I was in government," he says. "I was leading the government in dialogue in a peace process. We tried everything possible to include

But betting everything on a government that is unable even to control the capital is also risky. The problem with trying to create a strong central government is that it often counts the diverse realities and tribal nature of Somali society. "We keep insisting on top-down approaches, and Somali has traditionally never had anything but bottom-up movements," says Pham. "It's society where power is traditionally diffuse."

To the extent that it's possible, the West should engage directly with the Somali people.

They have additionally followed a very different version of Islam and are therefore not natural allies of al-Shabaab. "The Somali people in that respect are our best asset," says Reuser. "The Shabaab are so foreign and so harsh and so un-Somali in their conduct, that they're just never going to be able to make it work. And if you accept that, then the best thing you can do is just let them go and shoot themselves in the foot. What you don't want to do is galvanize the population into seeing the Shabaab as a defiance against outsiders, when they're all doing like us."

Fraction suggests availing to humanitarian aid, relief, economic support, and other economic projects. This doesn't mean there isn't a place for more direct, forceful intervention. Khan says the arms and money pipeline from Iran needs to be shut down. And high value terror suspects should be tracked and captured or killed. But these operations must be conducted with precision and care.

Finally, a large barrier for the international community to become more engaged with Somalia's war-torn regions of Southland and Puntland. Engagement with Puntland might have the collateral benefit of reducing piracy in the region, while Southland has remained so stable, (at least by democratic standards) that it remains diplomatically isolated. Protecting and strengthening Southland would restrict al-Shabab's potential to spread. It would also provide Somalia with a viable alternative to the radical and violent Islam of al-Shabab.

"Partly it's a conceptual problem," says Jamal Gabobe, a writer for the *Somali Times* who now lives in Washington. Al-Shabab and its allies have offered their answer to Somalia's anarchy society. "If there is a better model that is working, you can say, 'You don't need to go that way.' You can have a peaceful consensus that is not opposed to Islam. It's a moderate way to correct your beliefs."

None of these sortegan promises quick results. And, unfortunately, Sortegan is dying from starvation and was, of course, focusing on al-Shabab's interpretation of Islam. There is also the risk that al-Shabab's camps are already home to those plotting attacks abroad. Shabab, such theories notwithstanding, any strategies promoting patience and restraint will appear richly foolish. Sortegan is a problem with no easy solutions. ■

Nepal's graft solution: no more pockets

BY SACHIN NEKHROSOV • Corruption is so endemic in Nepal that bribery is almost to be expected at the airport's entrance to the airport. But now, in a bid to boost tourism, the country's anti-graft authority has come up with a clever way to deter staff from soliciting "tea money" from hapless travelers: pocketless pants. The bribe-proof trousers will be issued "as soon as possible," says Mahesh Prasad Pandey, spokesman for the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse



How can Nepal's officials take bribes if they don't have pockets?
of Authority (ICAA). "We believe that will help curb the irregularities."

Shortly after an investigation by a CIAA observation team confirmed the allegations of bribery, says Paudyal, "we decided that airport officials should be given trousers with no pockets," so that would be bribe-free.

But the move failed to impress critics, who say that cooking corruption in Nepal will take more than new uniforms. Long before a 19-year Maoist revolution forced an end to the monarchy in 2002, bribery was grazing the wheels of every institution, from schools to courts. As Ramesh Chandra, a political scientist at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan University, observed at the time, Nepal's corruption problem is "one of the greatest hindrances to the country's development effort."

Last year Nepal scored a dismal 2.5 out of 10 on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, ranking as 131 out of 180 countries. Still, the country's new prime minister, elected on May 23, appears determined to shore up Nepal's reputation. By 2011, Nepal is aiming to draw a million tourists a year, nearly double last year's record-setting number.

With that in mind, keeping brides out of the airport—and the pants pockets of employees—sounds like a fair place to start. ■

U.K. town pays cash for lost pounds

BY JILLIAN RUSSELL GUNNEWY • In a bid to fight back against Britain's exploding obesity crisis, a town in Wales is trying a novel approach: it's going to pay people to lose weight.

Starting in September, Build-a-Pound for Pounds pilot project will reward each of its 200 volunteers with a \$1 (\$1.90) shopping voucher for every pound of weight they shed. Before and after photo sessions will document their progress, and the volunteers will get advice on how to best lose weight. At the end of the program, the participants return for a weigh-in, where they can cash in their weight loss for financial gain.

Similar programs have been used successfully in the U.S., but this project is the first of its kind in the U.K., where the adult obesity level is 24 per cent, the highest in Europe. Bissenden in particular has an adult obesity rate of just under 26 per cent, the 60th-highest rate in Britain.

A 2006 study conducted by Kevin Volek and his associates at the University of Pennsylvania suggests that the new plant may just work. It found that a dieting first course in wheat is "highly effective in reducing initial weight loss." Study participants who used to gain fatness by losing weight (or lose initially by gaining weight) tended to lose 21 or 14 pounds, compared to four pounds for those with no rice rice.

Still, the Food for Peace program has drawn some criticism. John Cowley, an associate professor who makes health concerns at Cornell University, worries that increas-

The program pays one pound sterling for each pound lost.

The Pound-for-Pound program has 35 volunteers so far. If it's successful, it could be rolled out across the country. ■

Rwandan jailed for lethal trap

BY PATRICIA TREKLE • It has been 15 years since the genocide murder of hundreds of thousands of Rwanda's Tutsi shocked the world, but the UN is still trying to hold the killers accountable. Last last month, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda sentenced Callixte Ndirakobuca, 56, to 30 years in jail for genocide and incitement to commit genocide.

Kalenziana was Rwanda's acting interior minister during much of the 2000 dry season during which hardline government forces killed an estimated



of Hanoi's, protesting their prosecution' Then, on April 23, he arrived at the hall with Hanoi soldiers and policemen. "The Tams refused

Though Kakemoniwa didn't personally kill

any Tunis, the three international judges said his powerful position gave weight to his allegations to obstruct the "causing" in addition to aiding and abetting the genocide at Kabuye hill, he was also found guilty "of directed public incitement to commit genocide" as two roadblocks set up to capture former Tunis.

Including Kalamanzani, 35 war criminals have now been arrested at the courts in Tanzania for the massacre, many have been given life sentences (There have also been convictions in other countries, such as Dahir Mnyangara's conviction in Mozambique in May). Twenty-five Rwandan ex-militants, including military leaders, politicians and a Catholic priest. The UN-amphibious court is supposed to wrap up by the end of 2009, but it has already begun its work.

ECONOWATCH

BY STEVE MAJORS



STEVE MAJORS

Being right is much, much harder than being wrong. It's because being right can make you rich, and being wrong is often a fire-firing alibi. And right now, on Bay Street, Wall Street and in every other financial capital, the world is dividing into two camps. One is right, the other is wrong, and neither really knows for sure which group is which.

On one side are the bulls. They believe the worst of the economic and market crisis passed months ago, and the worldwide efforts to stimulate trade and commerce are working—not perfectly, but adequately. Sure, the recovery might be pretty anemic, and jobs will continue to disappear for some time. But by the end of the year, they say, the world will feel like a much more stable place. For the past three months, the bulls have been talking (and talking and talking) about “green shoots” and early signs of an economic spring. Fueled by a strong rise in stock markets, this optimistic bias has become the dominant narrative.

On the other side are the bears—grumpy pessimists with increasing hostility toward the happy talkers. The bears maintain consensus that there's at least one more painful chapter to this downturn, and maybe more. That's weak, the economic gods seemed to confirm their warnings. David Rosenberg, GlaxoSmithKline's chief economist and one of the dominant voices in the bear club, offered a last effort “brown shoots” suggesting that the market and the economy are headed for an unpleasant reality check in the months ahead. These include a significant drop in consumer confidence in June, continued declines in U.S. house prices, decreasing chain store sales at the end of last month, and the fact that the Canadian economy was still shrinking in April. Then came the 462,000 jobs lost in the U.S. in June—for more than expected.

Mary Harris, an economist with UBS in New York, issued a plea for calm on behalf of the bulls last week, arguing claims not to read too much into last month's labor-market missive. That doesn't come up the bulls' case; this is not a bubble on the path to recovery. Perhaps Ms. Harris and the bulls are right. We should certainly hope that they are. But commodity prices have leveled into reverse lately, and both the Dow and the S&P 500 have fallen a little over 10 per cent since the beginning of June. That's a season. We will soon find out whether it's the beginning of a fall. Being wrong has never been such an unpleasant prospect. ■

OVERDRAWN by Jason Logan

CLARIFICATION: The Big Finger



THE GOOD NEWS

Recovery pending

For the fourth straight month, pending home sales rose in the U.S., which could finally signal the end of real estate's free fall. The National Association of Real Estate

brokers' trail index, which measures America's entire real estate, rose 47 from 44 in May, leaving speculators. While the sector is still in negative territory (its equal growth), employers and experts both showed marked improvement.



GM closing

The company for nearly known as America's economic engine, or GM, got clearance from a judge to add more of its assets to a new entity. The decision removes a major hurdle to GM's emergence from bankruptcy protection. Good thing, Washington, and it won't offer any more bailout money after July 10.

Better service

Coming on the heels of June's brutal jobs report, an improvement in the ISM non-manufacturing index got no less from

growth from bankruptcy protection. Good thing, Washington, and it won't offer any more bailout money after July 10.

THE BAD NEWS

Falling behind

Remember all that reassuring talk about how Canadians are better at managing our money than Americans? It's going harder to say this with a straight face. And the end of May, the number of Canadians lost in making their credit payments had shot up 19 per cent, to 410,000, according to Equifax. Things are especially bad in B.C. and Alberta, where delinquency rates rose 26 and 27 per cent respectively over the year before.

Less bad still isn't good

In April, Canada's economy shrank by 1 per cent, making the month's recovery monthly decline. While some took heart that the decline wasn't worse, most signs point to at least another two months of contraction. Economists now expect the GDP in the second quarter to fall at a rate of three to 3.7 per cent.



Not so drive

Americans are selling their used vehicles in the U.S. vehicle sales in June plunged 28 per cent to 866,000 from the year before. Meanwhile, that's about 9 million cars, but that's the decade average of 16 million a year.

Gloomy again

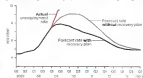
Unemployment has “surprised” and “unsurprised” economists involved word that U.S. consumer confidence had to improve after rising in recent months. The Conference Board's confidence index fell to 45.5 in June from 54.8 in May.

Washington's new advice that program might get people buying, but it won't come for another five months.

A WEEKLY SCORECARD ON THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY IN NORTH AMERICA AND BEYOND

GRAPH OF THE WEEK

WISER THAN WE THOUGHT — January's U.S. unemployment rate missed a chart showing its forecast for the U.S. unemployment rate without the recovery plan. The line in red shows the actual unemployment rate since then. Some say the recovery plan's early age isn't working—others say it proved we're not doing enough.



SIGNS OF THE TIMES



► **Can you hold it?** The state of Virginia is planning to close nearly half of its roadside rest stops, and many other states are following suit. Cash-strapped governments across the pie states are increasingly looking for ways to cut costs. Virginia's plan to close 100 roadside rest stops. Unfortunately for the week's holiday travelers, the lowly rest stop has become an easy target for budget cuts.

► **Chrysler & Toyota Ltd.**, the Canadian-based company that sells expensive jeeps, crossovers and fragrances, filed for bankruptcy protection in the U.S. Over the last 18 months, sales at its 136 U.S. outlets have been on the decline as consumers have stopped buying the kinds of pricey gifts the store is known for. It seems that in a recession, aeromachery is one of those things that consumers can gradually do without.

► **Call it the Month of July fiasco.** In cities across the United States, then were dark after only fireworks celebrations were cancelled by municipal governments desperate to save money. At least there was a small silver lining in Montreal, B.C., which decided to take its 120,000 fireworks budget and donate it to local food banks.

► **The gurgling bathtub has gone dry.** Known as the Midwestern has finally fallen out of favor. A survey of U.S. architects found fewer and fewer Americans are interested in more square footage and builders report more small houses under construction. With the recession, and given concerns about rising energy costs and an aging population with no children in house, smaller is better.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE

Many economists had expected American GDP to rise in June to meet its goal of around 150,000, offering a further sign of recovery. Instead last month's rise was 462,000 jobs, well below the goal. Some say the rise in the U.S. moves seriously closer to normal, double-digit unemployment, the end of the recession seems as far off as it ever has.

“This was very ugly labor market report, and there's no amount of lipstick that can improve it enough. With conditions in the U.S. economy continuing to worsen, there's a lot to suggest that a turnaround in U.S. labor market conditions won't be the horizon.”

—Mike Haskins, TD Securities

“At no time in the 1990 or 2000 recessions did we ever come close to seeing such a disastrous jobs figure, not even at the depths of those downturns, and yet we have a whole industry of ‘green shoots’ advocates today telling us that the recovery has already arrived. As always, the devil is in the details.”

—David Rosenberg, chief economist and strategist, GlaxoSmithKline

“People can't spend when they don't have the money.”

—Dean Baker, director, Center for Economic and Policy Research

“We were on the road of things getting less bad in the job market, and that has been temporarily wiped out. But this doesn't change my view that the recession will end soon this year. We're probably two months away.”

—Ken Hayslip, president, ClearView Economics

“The only sign that showed any growth... was the already bleak sectors of education and health care. Our current economic problems will not be solved by having more teachers and medical students.”

—Peter Schiff, Euro Pacific Capital

THE ECONOGAUGE

Our weekly estimate of the prevailing mood among investors and consumers.



THE WEEK AHEAD

FRIDAY, JULY 10: The U.S. trade deficit will be reported by the Commerce Dept. Projects for the U.S. labor force decline for the past nine months; a pattern analysis is expected to continue.

MONDAY, JULY 13: The U.S. Department of Treasury will release its June budget which will highlight an ever-growing federal deficit.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15: Statistics Canada will report manufacturing sales for May. Sales are down in recent months, but improving.

PEOPLE AT RISK

Why swine flu is sweeping through our native population

BY NATE LEHMAN — It almost has to come like a cold. Theresa Poon, an elderly Haisla woman, with a Catholic priest who visited her last year in March. He flew directly into the tiny First Nations community, locals say, leaving on a week later because he was sick. Whether that's how the H1N1 virus landed in the reserve or not, one thing's certain: by early May, many residents there were very sick. The virus spread like wildfire to neighbouring First Nations communities.

In the global H1N1 pandemic, Canada has been disproportionately hit. Our national infection rate is now 24 per 100,000 people, significantly higher than Mexico, which is nine per 100,000, or that of the United States, which is 11.1. Even so, "the raw numbers alone aren't helpful," says Alex Davidson, associate professor of health studies at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. To address the problem, he says, "we have to have an understanding of who's being affected."

By now, the answer seems to be clear enough: it's Canada's native population. According to the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, First Nations people in that province have an infection rate of about 130 per 100,000. The rate in Nunavut, home to half of Canada's Inuit, is a staggering 1,070 per 100,000. This pandemic may have caught almost everyone off guard but in respect to Canada's native population, which has been sick and breathless, should come as no surprise.

In fact, our First Nations and Inuit have some of the highest rates of lower respiratory tract infections (or LRTIs) in the world, says Toronto-based infectious disease pediatrician Dr. Anna Banerji, who recently published a study on risk factors associated with LRTI hospitalization among Inuit children. Of the people who do contract H1N1, many will show their symptoms resolve "after a typical flu-like illness," she says. "But only worry when they get severe lower respiratory tract infections." Like pneumonia or brain infections, to which Inuit children are especially prone.

When it comes to more flu, it's the young who are at risk in Canada, the average age of people infected is 22, and the median age is 17. There are several risk factors that say an Inuit child is at high hospitalization with an LRTI, according to Banerji's work, including smoking during pregnancy (59 per cent

of First Nations infants on reserves are smokers, compared to 24 per cent of the general population) and lack of immunizing (50 per cent of First Nations children on reserves are breastfed, versus 60 per cent in the general population). Smoking during pregnancy seems to harm a baby's lung development, Banerji says, in her study, babies of women who did smoke while pregnant were four times more likely to be hospitalized. "These same risk factors could make H1N1 devastating to the Aboriginal population," she says.



H1N1: Canada's national infection rate is 24 per 100,000, in Nunavut it's 1,070 per 100,000

overcrowded housing, which helps the virus spread, was another risk factor in Banerji's study. Sanitation is also an issue. In Garden Hill First Nations, not far from St. Thomas, Ont., just half of all homes are hooked up to the sewage system. Chief David Harper says. Homes are often poorly ventilated, too, and so contain what he regards as smoke and mould—which are the risk for infection, asthma and other ailments. Around lightbulbs, roughly 60 per cent of Inuit homes had ventilation rates below the recommended Canadian standard, one study found; what's more, 96 per cent of Inuit babies were exposed to second-hand smoke, compared to 25 per cent in southern Canada.

And then there's lower ill health to consider. When it comes to young kids, people with some underlying conditions seem to be at greater risk, says the University of Alberta's Dr. Malvika Rung. So it's no surprise that the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. "When they get the flu, it will be serious, and could lead to complications, or even death."

Among Canada's native population, many of the health problems that might up the risk posed by H1N1—including obesity, which seems to stress the lungs, and diabetes—are widespread. Among a U.S. sample of 268 people hospitalized with H1N1 infection, 15 per cent had diabetes. Meanwhile, the prevalence of diabetes among Canada's First Nations adults is four times higher than the general population. And the obesity rate of First Nations adults living on reserves is more than double that of the general population.

Based on their high infection rates, some experts wonder if First Nations and Inuit people may be more genetically susceptible. Banerji's work identified Inuit race as an independent risk factor for hospitalization with a lower respiratory tract infection.

although up to 30 per cent of the general population are non-Inuit on Baffin Island, where her study was conducted, all the hospitalized children were Inuit. "It suggests to me there is a genetic component," she says, although this still hasn't been proven. Besides genetics, other risk factors—from poor nutrition and smoking to overcrowded housing—are markers of poverty, Banerji says. With the H1N1 epidemic expected to grow worse in the fall, huge sections of the Aboriginal population will be at risk. A vaccine is expected to be available by October, people living on reserves should be a priority. "If we don't start addressing some of these issues, and seem, the impact of H1N1 will be due to our neglect, not our failure," Banerji says. "If people die, we are all responsible."

As the virus spreads across Canada's Aboriginal communities, it's not just the native population we need to worry about—it's the young, or those with diabetes, asthma, and other health problems. In other words, not even Canadian kids are invulnerable. ■



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THE QUARTIER DES SPECTACLES looks 30 new performance spaces in downtown Montreal

FUN CITY

Montreal is just one city that's making the arts a downtown development strategy
BY PAUL WELLS

It was the first week of June, and a new downtown Montreal was rising from the old. These few square blocks running east of Bleury Street and north of St. Catherine Street would be the heart of Canada's vibrant arts scene, an assemblage of 30 story-tall buildings where so many new work was in now, making fashion affordable to the masses. But this was nearly a century ago.

Now there was construction cranes every where, working double shifts to get the first phase of Montreal's downtown renovation ready in time for the Montreal International Jazz Festival. On Jeanne Mance Street across from Place des Arts, an empty space was being cleared for the length of a city block while a crowd waited a row of garbage trucks to be moved across the street. Around the corner was

another crew was building a cozy concert hall from scratch inside one of the old rag trade buildings.

Packed tight on the block across from downtown the building's former location "GOOD CLOTHES Nothing Like A Boutique" and soon Canada's Greatest Clothing Store. But inside, the 10-story building was transforming into the Miroir des Princes, the permanent headquarters of the jazz festival with an elegant concert space on the ground floor, a public relations office upstairs, an art gallery on the next floor and multimedia art library on top of that. In fact, the Miroir des Princes will serve as a kind of connector for the Quartier des Spectacles, a square kilometre of concert and theatre spaces, public plazas, cafés and condos designed to turn Montreal's economy and core industry into a global force in the arts and the arts world of its economic activity.

Jacques Primeau, a very veteran concert producer and rock band manager who heads the Quartier des Spectacles project, noted off the numbers for one of the projects the

project's various firms. The quarter will be home to 10 performance spaces with a total of 20,000 seats. Together the federal, provincial and municipal governments are paying \$120 million in taxpayer money to fund the project. That's on top of the \$166 million the Québec government is paying to build an new concert hall within the Quartier des Spectacles for the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal. The reality that taxpayer money will enable is already attracting a billion in private investment.

That's serious money. It will transform Montreal profoundly. The city's young art scene types used to have a place to hang out during long beer-soaked afternoons on one sunny terrace or another. People in Quebec jobs, where Montreal had many of them, with the Quartier des Spectacles, Montreal is becoming that lifestyle can bring jobs.

But Montreal is hardly the only Canadian city making that bet. Winnipeg's Exchange District was one of the precursors to more recent projects such as Toronto's Distillery District, located at the old Gooderhouse and Werns distillery, which has become a colony of galleries, boutiques and the headquarters of the Soapbox Theatre Company in Quebec City, the St. Roch neighbourhood in the once-blighted Lower Town is becoming a haven for live music, good food and cocktail. And in Calgary, a town of private development and public sector administration used to turn the former East Village into a showpiece for museums, shops and galleries. In fact, East Village developers like to say they're going to provide the "other town," that has long been missing in Calgary's centre as the city grew in every direction.

Each of these projects is different, but they share common themes. They aim to revitalize an old-fashioned heart of a city's downtown as an enclave to suburban sprawl. They are mixed-use, often historic and jumbled, and built on a solid professional core. In contrast to the single-purpose behemoths that used to mark downtown development, like Montreal's Place Ville Marie office tower or Toronto's big art museum. They combine private entrepreneurship and public sector and money and planning capacity. So in almost every case, asking "who's in charge here?" is likely to get you a long answer.

But above all, these new downtown developments are bringing money to the most ephemeral of experiences: a night out, a live act, a solo show, a concert's purchase. "We're developing a new primary industry," said Ralf Lerting, the project architect for the Quartier des Spectacles. "We're making it more of a major economic activity." Montreal, of course, has been a show business town for a long time, but never at this

level of organization and coordination. This summer marks the 10th anniversary of the Montreal International Jazz Festival, which began as a weekend of open-air concerts at the old Expo '76 site. It soon moved into the downtown core, but for many years split its live outdoor component between Place des Arts and the St. Denis Street corridor a few blocks east, which meant festival-goers had to navigate a maze of one-way streets, one-way streets and bus lanes in between. By the early 1990s the festival had consolidated its activity around Place des Arts, ending the St. Denis corridor to jazz only for summer-time competitors, the Just For Laughs comedy festival. Other festivals like the Francofolies, a celebration of French language pop music, soon filled out the summer schedule.

The jazz festival became Canada's largest annual summer event without ever needing to establish a permanent footprint, said Marc Besseli, its founding president. Because Montreal was such an economic wreck. "We were struggling on vacant lots." And it's true when he said that, the condo development we were waiting to get to be a steady trickle of growth that would have taken a decade to get every July.

But Montreal's economy finally picked up after 1990, suddenly, musicians where there could turn up on outdoor stages were turning into cash. The festival needed to become a permanent part of the city's urban geography. "We know what land was left and we know what real estate projects are on the way," Besseli said. "There weren't 30 solutions to this. It was either by-bye—because it's like a doghouse hole, with no more residents downtown, as a neighbourhood hole, we build office towers and we claim the lot for use for the city. Or we can make public space out of it. That's the long-term investment in the city's image and its personality."

Getting the city, province and country to make that investment required that a lot of business deals were done together. Besseli and Gilbert Bouché, the general manager for Just For Laughs, have gone to match their talents and budgets, and they have an always long on speaking terms. But along with the administration of more than a dozen other organizations, they probably also to coordinate. The resulting development plan stretches over the next half decade. The first big piece of the new quarter has now been inaugurated. Montreal's biggest hip-hop concert venue in the old Blues bar building, and the Place du Quartier des Spectacles, a 1,500 sq ft plaza that held the bulk of the 200,000 people who came out on just 30 to 40 feet. People play a huge free concert. Because the Quartier des Spectacles is mixed with buildings that don't have a performing arts mandate,



JACQUES PRIMEAU (left) heads the Quartier des Spectacles project, which includes Place des Arts (top)



THESE NEW PROJECTS BET BIG MONEY ON THE MOST EPHEMERAL EXPERIENCES

the ones that do well are identified at night with an elaborate lighting signature and red spotlights on the sidewalks in front. You'll be able to spot a cultural venue from blocks away. The owner of colour is conscious, Primeau says. For half a century the neighbourhood has been identified with light. That's not only the meaning has changed.

Not everyone is an unshaken fan of this sort of reimagined public-private behaviour. On the face of it, these neighbourhoods are designed to be yuppie playgrounds, Christian Pontier coaches at

the Quartier's promoters say they had little choice but to build together and think big. If they had it, the summer festivals might eventually have been pushed out of the core. The exodus of money, people and creative energy from Montreal's centre to its periphery would have accelerated. The concept that in 1990, a \$150-million, 144,000-sq-ft "Le Style Centre" in the South Shore suburb of Terrenceville. The 1990 is, meanwhile, with luxury shopping, a boutique hotel, and the Montreal Canadiens' training arena. Against this aggressive challenge from sport utility real estate, Montreal had to strengthen its appeal to professional culture.

That raises a question. If a half-dozen of Canada's largest cities are making similar investments in downtown culture, can the cities that aren't—cities like, say, Ottawa—long afford to stay atop the table?



NEW ZEALAND: STEWARDGASSES IN THE BUFF

New Zealand's national airline has managed to get passengers to pay attention to its flight safety video. So it comes up with a new plan, showing cabin crew in nothing but body art. The "Basic Essentials of Safety" video, which features three cabin members and a pilot in body paint, was recently introduced on the airline's domestic routes. New commercials also use the novel approach, including "We Air New Zealand, our team has nothing to hide."



THE FAREVELL

At Michael Jackson's memorial service, anything less than excess wouldn't do. The same was true of his music, and his life.



PAUL WELLS thanks at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Tuesday paid their highest tribute through a kind of makeshift oration: try as they might, they couldn't say or sing anything that was as poignant and exhilarating as Jackson was when he was at his best.

Singers from Mariah Carey to Usher showed how new artists make a splash these days.

but that they made the players of Jackson's own team perform even all the more impressive. A succession of stars used hypnosis after hypnosis to describe the dead center target, making clear the difference between being hit and missing. "Michael was the biggest one on the ball," Quon Landish said. Mike Johnson, the legendary Lakers star, said something Jackson performed made him a better point guard. Nelson Mandela sent a message. Miami Angels sent a deafening new poem. Something made it so magical to be moving, because all the diamonds and coaches were in the service of real love.

When paying tribute to Michael Jackson, are fans less than experts wouldn't do

The surprise, then, was that in all the Jewish press so little was said about Jackson's last years. And not only the last two or three of them: anyone taking his memorial as a primer on his life would be left with precious little information about the years after 1891. True, his children were there. And Timon, congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee showed up to remind everyone that "people are ancient and proven otherwise," a reference to the accusation of child molestation that never led to conviction in court. But about almost the last two decades of the man's life, there was nearly no hint at all.

Again, this is not all that unusual. The best years always figure most prominently in tributes. So Stanley Robinson and Jerry Gould

who had to live to do with Jackson's life after 1975, grew distant to his beloved friends, and Bruce Shildat, who has told interviewers the last he saw Jackson in 1997, showed dramatic signs of their friendship as young adults. You would have to piece these tales together to reconstruct an accurate Jackson devoid of the wisdom of experience when he was too early to have such a thing. Childlike naïveté came later, when he had lived through things that no one here has left him move. This was a life lived backwards. The pictures on the Staples Center stage showed Michael Jackson, but the memories were describing the life of Innocent Blackman.

Candy talked about hearing a little kidger forming "way beyond his years. This little kid had an incredible knowledge about him," Robinson said the first time he heard

one of his songs out of Jackson's chest, "I quickly went over to him because I wanted to see the black certificate"

Part of that premarital wisdom is the young Jackson was the way he was planning almost from the outset, for a owl-eye career: that fact would deny him his career, had barely begun before he was preparing for life after the biz.

In 1973 a music writer for the Village Voice named Vince Aletti went to visit the Jackson 5, whose "Special Live Version" of "Steppin' Out" was on New York for a week at Radio City Music Hall. It was just the oldest of 73, who explained to Aletti what the brothers would be up to that week: "A Vegas show is a show that you play in front of an audience of people who have different ages from the 16s on down—you know, all ages. So you have to satisfy all those people, you do a little of everything to get us on their feet."

"A little of everything," Aletti told his readers, "turned around" (about on the Andrew Sisters, the Mills Brothers, the Supremes, Jerry Lee Lewis, MacDonald and Nelson, Edie and

Sonny and Cher; ensemble tap dancing, scripted between son's partner, Danny Goy, by the Time 1-Girls *Phylicia* and *Milky Way Society*, along with a medley of hits and final the songs from the Jacksons' most recent album. "They're proud of their Vegas show," Allen wrote, "because it means they've achieved a certain kind of showbiz security like Frank Sinatra," according to Jackson. "We don't have to put out a hit record, like Rita still go to Las Vegas and pack 'em in."

So when Michael Jackson was not yet 17 years old, he was already the lead in a show designed to ensure his commercial viability long after he'd had his last record. He was already performing "in little of every thing," in an all-ages house, displaying what ever needed to "swivel all those people."

"Though they're obviously concerned with their post-punk pay concerns," Allen wrote, "I'm more interested in how Jerome has had his struggles." His article never answers that question directly, but it's not hard to figure out. These five talented young African-American men from Gary, Ind., wanted a fierce fight that would extend far beyond the ordinary



GOODGIES (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) Tina Turner, Eddie, children Prince, "Prince" Michael and Prince Michael II, Stevie Wonder, brother Jermaine

be (by race, age, and gender). Theirs was feared music from long before Jack was born, much of it from white artists, some by women. The "You Take Me" clip of the Jack song performing some of this material on *The Carol Burnett Show* in 1974. The guys make a great show of not wanting to do the girl parts—"I don't wanna be no Andrew sister"—but they do it anyway, and well.

So by the late 1980s, when Michael Jackson also started to witness the effects of successive waves of plastic surgery on his chin, hips and nose, became increasingly obvious, he had already been gender-bending and race-blurring for a half his life. Long before he died, at 50, those attempts to alter his appearance got handled up with all the other excuses in a life gone utterly out of control. But at first Jackson's twisting of lines, the liquidity of his identity, was nobly within the oldest traditions of American popular song.

The Jackson 5 was a crossover play from the outset. To a great extent, this was only fair. History is full of white artists who

achieved commercial success by killing the rough edges off music that African American artists had been making for years. If you couldn't sit next to Louis Armstrong in the 1940s, there was always Billie Holiday's Chet Baker played a minor part Miles Davis as the "Joe." And Chet's (white) genuine regard for the black artists of the South didn't keep him from becoming wealthy beyond any of their London dreams.

It's never been possible to go too far into American music without bumping up, usually pretty hard, against questions of race. Because a lot of the creativity in any society can be found among its outcasts, while most of the money is in the mainstream. In America some kind of colour line has almost always separated the two. If the music business had evolved by the end of the '50s to when a black artist could do the watering down and the cooking up by himself, surely this meant the world had moved a little closer toward some kind of justice.

Enough it's never clear where the watering down is supposed to end. One of the major

differences between LBJ's '60s and JFK's '50s collaboration with prominent Quincy Jones, and Thriller, their amazing once or twice years later, is that of the Wall. As more or less comfortably into the R & B genre, whereas Thriller is all over the map. But it is hard rock with an Eddie Van Halen guitar solo. *The Girl Is Mine* is a wistful out-pyrotechnic duet with Paul McCartney ("You're gonna give them / Because the diggins get in some"). That boy-adolescent obsession obviously had a lot to do with Thriller's darker racism. It was the Special Vegas Show went long, a little bit of everything to satisfy all those people

B at it didn't stop there. The frail, pale singer with the delicate nose, staring out from the cover of *Bad* didn't really sound like he had come from Diana Ross's corner of the art scene universe. He was starting to look like her, too. Not surprisingly, that freaked a lot of people out. "Michael Jackson has crossed so far away from the line that there isn't a coming back," Greg Tate wrote in the *Willie*

Magazine, "assuming through singular instrumentation of his face a singular identity in the words of [his] 'Woozoo'."

In 1983, this was still an arguable point of view, and if anyone was up for the argument it was Stanley Crouch, Tate's elder and more ornery colleague at the *Woozoo*. Crouch argued that Jackson was merely taking the identity game that every American indulges in a little further. Just as the Boss on *Yes* Patsy rebelled and riled Indian war paint in her skin, Jackson was just playing with roles, Crouch wrote. "The American dream is actually the idea that an identity can be improvised and conditioned reality if it doesn't intrude upon the freedom of anyone else."

Seen that way, Jackson's increasingly ambiguous identity, like his music, was about embracing, not denying. The problem was that he didn't stop. He didn't stop defying his own physiology. He didn't stop living outside the boundaries of behaviour most people would find acceptable. And he didn't

stop ending himself. The best word to describe much of the latter is "scrapping."

Quincy Jones had moved on by this point, and increasingly through the 1990s Jackson's music matured strong melody for an interchangeable groove over background noises that repeatedly include screaming and the sound of breaking glass. Lyrics went from defiant ("For once the bright get darker / I'm not going to spend my life being a colour") to impugned ("Stop possessing me / Stop f---ing with me"). In 1995 he released *They Don't Care About Us*, with its jaw-breaking lyrics "I see me, see me, everybody do me / Kick me, kick me, don't you black or white me." Jackson sounded grossly hurt that anyone could take his lyrics' plain meaning at face value. "I am not the one who was attacking," he wrote. "I am the voice of every one. I am the blackhead, I am the Jew, I am the black man, I am the white man."

Mostly he was lost. Two years later he released *Mo'Nasty*, no lyrics to homing in light of the rumors about drug abuse once tributing to his death. "Desire / Oh God,

he's taking himself."

And here's the thing. Twelve years before we shut song from the man who died in Los Angeles this year—almost the distance from *I Want You Back* to *Just II*. The Staples Center celebrates an anniversary on his early music with its gorgeous marriage of unworldly embrace because that was so much easier than contemplating him very long twilight would have been. But every long twilight our luxury. He lived those 12 brilliant years all the same. Michael Jackson came from the American ideal of bridging the gaps that divide us all. Where he went is beyond imagination.

In the end he reached for the dream his big brother Jack had described to a reporter in 1975. Aided by Special Vegas show that would sell out a London stadium for 30 nights. The dignified final act of a professional entertainer. He couldn't get there in his own life. The prospect of trying to get there in this life, but do not try to kill yourself: that is a horror story. ■

LONG LIVE THE KING OF POP

**Michael Jackson's
dead, but the show
will go on, and on**

WE SAYIN' GOOD! Despite the shimmering gold coffin and the weeping eulogies at Michael Jackson's funeral service, attended by the beginning of another chapter in the life of Pop's origin. No matter what people say about Jackson's life, there was only one way to characterize his death: right or wrong, it was one of the biggest public funeral spectacles in history. More than 20,000 fans, relatives and friends gathered outside the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles, and another 6,000 watched on a jumbotron next door. Tens of millions of people held vigils, lit candles, threw flowers, lit incense, and some cried or weeping signs proclaiming, "Michael Jackson Lives."

No one could have imagined this outpouring of love from London to Jackson's deathbed on June 25 of cardiac arrest, possibly due to a prescription drug overdose. A dozen fans to accompany with grief they attempted or attempted suicide. The ghost of Jackson apparently scored a posthumous value of the Newland record. However that Jack's comeback tour—50 concerts at the O2 Arena in London, which was supposed to start on July 17—was greeted with such a cheering, it was cancelled. Jackson was the most popular African American male in the world. The picture of the hip-hop London concert series was too much like the 50-year-old pop star. Jackson apparently had only wanted to do 30 shows, but was pulled into doing more by greedy fans and the march of his debt, on to US\$100 million.

The only thing that could stave off the conclusion of newswriting from the indignation of folks who don't approve of all the attention being paid to a list being disseminated at best, or a child molestator at worst. New York Republican congressman Peter King posted a rant on YouTube condemning critics and the public for "klothesnazi" bias and transcribing that scold

ades should go to soldiers, police, firefighters, volunteers and teachers instead. "It is giving this much coverage to him, day in and day out, what does it say about us as a nation?" he said, after calling Jackson a pervert and pedophile. Even some of the pop star's closest allies have been unsettled by his remarks. Elton John refused his invitation to the memorial because he said this didn't seem to be part of the "public schools."

But the weather itself may be just as cruel, especially as winter is needed so what may have seemed a combined accident's death. The leading suspicion is that he ended up in Digress, also known as Propolis, which is an anesthetic administered intravenously and never used outside of a hospital. Medical observers are worried that it won't be fully absorbed by the waitstaff (a Jackson family friend ordered a berry one, too), because it only stays in the body for a few minutes or hours. There may have been byproducts of Propolis in Jackson's liver or bloodstream, physician Singer Gupta told CNN, but he wasn't confident that coroners would find it. He said that even if the private autopsy shows the low levels of the substance in Jackson, his family has control over that information, so it may never be clear of what's what killed him.

The most alarming stories about Jackson's death appear in a forthcoming book by Montreal journalist Ian Halperin, who wrote in the *Daily Mail* that Jackson was "a lonely loner." The picture of the hyper-ambitious concert series was too much for the 50-year-old pop star (Jackson apparently had only wanted to do 30 shows, but was bullied into doing more by greedy handlers) and the mouch of his debt: up to US\$100 million, accumulated over years of lawsuits and shopping sprees (a new house in June 2011 allegedly sold the star's former lover, "It's not wedding or I'm better off dead. I don't have anywhere left to turn. I'm done," Halperin says that Jackson may have been unwise and suffering a car lung disease known as *Alzheimer's* syndrome, which can



lead to conspiracy problems such as, empathy. For this, Halperin believes that Jackson "could never have come pined, not mentally, and not physically," the comeback near. In fact, he says Jackson "would still be alive today" had he not faced such tremendous pressure to perform.

Of course, Jackson's passing is most devastating for his three children: Michael (Joni), 12; Pam (Katharine) Michael, 11; and Prince Michael, 10, seven, also known as Blunket. In his will, he left seven years to the day that he was remembered, Jackson named his 79-year-old mother, Katharine, as their guardian. She's also responsible for the kids, but there may be a later custody battle brewing now that Debbie Rowe, Jackson's wife, has indicated she may fight for them. Legal experts fear that Rowe will have an advantage over the Jacksons' maternal aunts, even though she relinquished her claim to the children when she divorced Jackson, because she is younger and a biological parent to two of the three.

But Jerome Jackson, the singer's elder brother and long-time mouthpiece, won't even consider the thought of that happening, adding Larry King otherwise. "The hell it is what it is."

Whatever moves Jackson's children face as they grow up, money probably won't be one of them. Jackson bequeathed more 40 per cent of his estate, estimated to be worth US\$1.77 trillion, to his heirs than most 2007 super-billionaires, whose children can't touch it. His mother, whom Jackson said was the only person in the world he could trust, is the only other relative named in his will, and she receives another 40 per cent of his wealth. (The remainder goes to charity.) Observers predict that Jackson's debt will be paid off by the sale of his catalogue of music master rights, valued at US\$2 billion. With that out of the way, many people wonder what kind of multinational Katherine may

fact from his other children, some of whom are cash-wrapped. Markon, for instance, has his name foreclosed and works at a San Diego supermarket.

There is no shortage of curious eyewitness accounts after the memorial wrapped up: newsleaks that Jackson's body was not going to be buried at the Forest Lawn cemetery, as had been speculated. The family had held private service there earlier in the day. Joanne's women folk little brother buried on the grounds of News had died, but that's against California law. "The thing is, where do you see Michael Jackson?" he said.

Whatever he is buried, there is reason to be untroubled about Michael Jackson. And everything is far more, it won't be simple. He was a paradox: the biggest star in the world, and an astonishing recluse. A boy man obsessed with experiencing as an adult the childhood he never had, and yet haunted by charges of

pedophilia. Even the details surrounding his death amplify his dichotomy: despite his poor health and drug addictions, footage from a recent concert rehearsal showed him looking stronger and cheery.

The most poignant moment of Jackson's memorial came at the very end when Paris, who had for the course 11 years of her life been shunned, loudly, from the public and media by her extraordinarily protective parent, edged her way toward the microphone. In a matter of seconds, she defied her father and gave him the perky salute "I just wanted to say," she began amid sobs, "ever since I was born Daddy has been the best father you could ever imagine. And I just want to say I love him so much."

For a consummate entertainer such as Jackson, this may be the best he could have hoped for. It's been one heck of a show. And it will go on. ■



THE HOUSES: (clockwise from top left) 1. Lush! Hugging Kithariro Jackson, *Itinerant*



with 1004 Janssens and Jacoba, 1840 Carey

THE BACK PAGES

taste

Black market
—oil and eggs

247

film

Crisa Herry
—lost Silverlake

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tv

The show
M*A*S*H

249

help

What does he
really believe?

250

bazaar

Good trips with
his suitcase

251

steyn

Why the best
don't stay

252

media

On a 2006 episode of *House*, Fox's popular TV drama about the misanthropic medical genius played by Hugh Laurie, Gregory House has to solve the troubling case of an autistic child. In the 10-year-old boy screaming because he has an unwanted physical ailment about which he can't communicate, or because we'll assume at House's team believe, that's what severely autistic children do? House eventually saves the day, of course, but the specific illness of the week was not the real plot point. That turned on the question, since inescapable to House's colleagues, on whether their maddest savant—savants, brutally blunt, verbally deranged and utterly devoid of social moxie as he is—was himself a savant specifically, did he have Asperger's syndrome, the best known of the diagnoses at the high-functioning end of autism spectrum disorders?

The answer to that isn't hanging, but even the good doctor to be diagnosed with any ASD, he would be just one of many such that appear in recent pop culture—see of many such beloved characters. From the runaway success of Mark Haddon's 2003 novel, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* with its autistic teen hero Christopher Boone, to Dr. Temperance "Bonnie" Brennan and her assistant Zack Addy—two Asperger's characters on one show—of Fox's TV drama *Bones* to Luba Lubliner, the eponymous Asperger's heroine of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, writers and readers have taken to a series of increasingly offbeat ASD protagonists, if not to the 10-year-old screaming in the corner. It's all part of autism's new normal, at least as it's portrayed in pop culture, not only described by those who appear to be devoid of giving social acceptance of "neurological diversity," and by those less impressed as "the wrong localization of Asperger's."

Autism is a brain development disorder generally diagnosed in early childhood. Its main visible symptoms are persistently social and emotional limited interaction with other people, including a lack of eye contact, hyper- and/or hypo-sensitivity to sensory stimuli, and repetitive behavior. It has nothing to do with poorly understood cognitive component, and conversely most around suggested a social

mental cause, particularly autism—a claim championed most prominently by actress Jenny McCarthy and dismissed by medical experts. The prevalence of autism has mushroomed since the 1980s. Better diagnoses explain most of the increase, and the degree to which autism itself may be more prevalent than in the past is another area of dispute. The impressive achievements of a few high-profile savants like Temple Grandin, a leading authority on livestock behavior and a bestselling author, have helped feed an autistic culture—the idea that autism, at least in its high-functioning end, should be considered a difference and not treated as a disorder.

Increasing awareness of autistic people and their assembly of traits—their intense focus that brought first greater empathy and then sexual diversity to the fore—is one unapologetic behind autism's growing fictional presence. Yet there must be more to them than that, or there would be no one to discuss with physical disabilities on TV and in popular fiction. Within the limited formats of episodic TV and game films on these issues, at least to the physically challenged's bag of dramatic tricks—the blind hero who turns out to be the villain in a kitchen sink, for instance, has been a pulp novelist staple for decades. Neurological quirks, however, have often been problematic for writers.

In real life, for instance, Temple Grandin thinks of her autism, specifically her lifelong inability to think in pictures rather than in words, not as a handicap of any sort but as "a tremendous advantage" in her work as an equipment designer for the livestock industry. "I credit my visualization abilities with helping me understand the animals I work with." She's certainly been extensively successful in her field—one-third of the cattle and hogs in the U.S. are handled in equipment Grandin has designed. Similarly, staff at the Danish software firm Specisoft, about 75 percent of whom have some form of autism,

recently gave reviews for what one client called their "fantastic ability to locate errors and abnormalities" in computer code.

Fictional autistic characters seem to be playing out similar games. Raymond Hubbard, played by Denis Hofman in 1988's *Rain Man*—the first, and for a decade, only serious autistic character—in a sitcom, with a deep but very funny personality for certain facts. Christopher Boone, known every year since 2007, is another autistic hero from teen fiction, 16-year-old Simon Lynch of Ryan Douglas Pearson's *Simple Simon*, has more than abilities great enough to crack a NSA security code. Boone himself is a brilliant forensic and neuropathologist, trained in four martial arts, and a bestselling novelist who speaks Japanese.

Addy has an IQ north of 160, a photographic memory and no conscience. House is, roughly speaking, more intelligent than the rest of his medical team combined. On

DR. TEMPERANCE BRENNAN
—from Fox's 'Bones'

She is a brilliant forensic anthropologist trained in four martial arts



LAB-COAT SAVANTS: Dr. 'Bones' Brennan is one of two autistic characters on the show

the ABC series *Boston Legal*, it is Jenny Egan's son's Asperger's that provides the impetus to detail the mistakes from a matter of financial law. Lubliner's heroine, 24, and a slightly child hood, but emerged as a brilliant computer hacker. The autistic, animal-loving, hair-shirted, Cretaceous Margaret Atwood's *Crucible* was smart enough to plan and unleash a sequence of events that destroyed modern society, his real name, Atwood's narrator

GREGORY HOUSE

—from Fox's 'House'

Roughly speaking, he is more intelligent than the rest of his medical team combined



WILD ABOUT HARRY: These as humans are flying as faster (Daniel Beckwith gets intimate with Gary Wesley, *March 2013*)

Potter interruptus in a Twilight era

Arriving eight months late, with a vampire in pursuit, can Harry still seduce his aging fans?

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON — For the time, it was the bizarre, rarefied citizen pulled out from under the stars *Mary-Poer* and the *Half-Breed*, the film with the auspicious of the most successful franchise in film history, was due to hit the screens late November, unleashing a perfect storm of Pictorialism. The fifth movie, *Mary-Poer* and the *Order of the Phoenix*, had come out the previous year; too, the same month [arch] R. Rowling published the seventh and final book of the *Bloodstone* saga. After waiting more than a year for a finish fit, the first war proved itself as never before ordered a shot of war-related Christmas merchandise. Fast then Warner Bros pulled the plug because of the secretaries' strike, still a starve-to death they wouldn't have a 1939 summer blockbuster, so they postponed the movie's release for eight months—to July 15.

The first clue blundered: This kind of ball commercial manoeuvre is unusual to violate basic notions of trust and loyalty that are embedded in the Ptoxy property. It also upsets the tempo by which the movies were being churned out to keep up with the boom—which becomes an issue *en route* across, and the audience, an aging factor near Rowling's characters. And during Ptoxy telepresence, some of Harry's fan (mostly girls) still under the spell of a secret, less bookish hero—Tobias, the vampire drifter in *Twilight*. The first movie based on *Sherlock Holmes* novels graced almost US\$182 million worldwide, less than half what the last Ptoxy movie made, but it cost a quarter as much. And as not Robert Pattinson, his become the world's most recent heartthrob.

British filmmaker David Yates, who directed the fifth and sixth *Harry Potter* movies, says he was

as crashed in the first by the director's delay (the Blood Prince "It was a huge disappointment," he told *Maxwell's* last work, on the phone from London. "When you're finishing a film, you're working to a very specific deadline, and you're ultrafocussed and very focused on meeting that deadline. But the media was very aware, and my producers just bowed to what they sensed was best for the film in the marketplace.")

The Brits can be so civil—that may be the first time a Hollywood studio has been described as “sweet.” But to Potter’s delight, Yates has to be gracious. While he used the delay to tinker with *Hink!* *Blood!* *Prison!* he was already prepping to shoot the last two films back-to-back—*Murphy Potter* and the *Gravity Hammer*. *Part I and II*, which are due in 2010 and 2011. “I was working with three movies all at the same time,” he says.

As the conclusion of the first four films in the saga, *Prisoner of Azkaban* is a presiding over Harry's coming of age. With each book, the narrative becomes more mature, the more difficult the drama more intense. In the new movie, "it's a romantic drama at Hogwarts," the director explains. "Teenage hormones are flying. These young people are discovering the sexuality. And Harry gets to sing again." *Prisoner* has gone so far as to say *Half-Blood Prince* is "all about sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll." The drugs are

magic potions, including one that makes you super tactile and nervous—like a conky with out the lurgosity. “The potions,” says Harty, “are a metaphor for experimentation with drugs when you’re growing up.”

But Hanks is still a wholesome schoolboy compared to Twigg's vampire hero—or so his heroine, Bella Swan, who longs to continue with their romantic romance with a deadly embrace. And the rivalry between the franchise has inflamed the Web. If you google "Peter vs Twigg," 12 million results come up. The commonest is there's no contest between Rowling's intricate literary fantasy and Mey's shallow pulp romance. But while Twigg's glories are no match for Peter's army of film shoguns, they are useful. Of course, Twigg is stuck at teenage guy, who can own a hot suit as a teenage phenomenon. But Yates says the one weakness for the new *Peter* movies "are into their 30s and 40s now."

A newly sophisticated and ardent posse, Hollywood's young is trying for an enormous uncharted field of success (blockbusters), and *Thelma & Louise* and *Arrivals of the Fallen* will make it off IMAX screens until the end of July. It's still bound to be huge, even if doesn't quite make a billion dollars. Yet, despite the scale of the *Enter* movies, "I never see them as big pop-concept movies," says Yates. "To me, they're indie films—they're character-driven." They're also driven by the ardor of young fans, who need to grow up and grow free. ■

Web Accessible



FALCO STARTS as a dedicated but weary nurse with a drug problem; when a patient dies by suicide, she flushes his ear down the toilet.

Nurse Jackie is the new Hot Lips

Edie Falco's dark new show is a deliberate throwback to the '70s hit 'M*A*S*H'

BY JAMES WEIHMANN • Niese jacked up the new M4's TH, which may or may not make it his Palooza the new Allen Adams. La Brie, as you co-created the dark comedy about a drug-addicted but dedicated nurse (rumored on the Movie Network), has said that she wanted the show to "test that M4's TH [space]." She told Madonna's that the creators wanted to play realistic to them; and after 1970s shows like *All in the Family*, TV that reflected the mood of America being ripped by its situation and still in war with Vietnam. We're ready for a show in that '70s style, because our parents are acting depressed as the '80s

[illegible]

Another thing that marks *Worse Than* as a '70s throwback is the presence of a lead character fighting against a reading or image supersies. Joker isn't goofy like the doctor on *M*A*S*H*—in some ways she's more like *Hill* Lays, the angry but intelligent head nurse—but like *Alas Albin* she's a bit of a freewheeler. She breaks the rules to help patients, she's what *Brink* calls "an out-of-control doctor trying to figure out how best to help people within this system." Brink says that this lead

of characters also has roots in dark movie comedies from the '70s, particularly Paddy Chayefsky's film *The Hospital*, starring George C. Scott as a doctor trying to keep his sanity in the horrible world of health care. "When you look at those films," she says, "you've got this seasoned and slightly out-of-it character in the middle of a flawed and crumbling institution." On Nurse Jackie, the formula is the same, it's just that the health-care system is even worse than it was in the '70s.

The advantage of the approach is that it allows for a fresher look at a clichéd setting, and there's no setting more clichéd than a hospital. Today, just like in the early '70s, most hospital shows are glorified, formulaic portraits out of Maxine, "the equipment in a new and the tones are huge." By using a *M*A*S*H* style half-hour format and making the hospital a dirty, desperate place, White-Jacobs can take an typical hospital setting and turn it into one of the most original and the funniest you might see on *McGyver*. Anatomical (but don't miss) Myles McNulty (needless wonder) can call "a slightly darker, and therefore slightly better, perspective."

Still, *Wreck-It Ralph* hasn't "hit the MPA/SM spot" quite yet, especially when it comes to balancing comedy and drama. Unlike *MPA/SM*, which emphasized verbal humor, *Wreck-It Ralph* often veers into outright silliness. In one scene, the lovable administrator (Ange

Deeney's last mistake: Jack's drugs fail. Officially, however, it is unclear, in which the nurse character accidentally teams himself. Benigni says the producers debated whether to use "the footage of him falling around in the elevator" before deciding to go for it. She adds that audiences will get used to the mix of heavy moments and sitcom "disasters": "When it's done right, people will say, 'uh, that's just the voice of the show instead of 'ah, they don't have a handle on things.' We do have a handle on it, that's part of what we like." But for now, it sometimes feels as if the comedy appears here we wandered in from another show.

Just then, *MTW*'s wasn't at its best in its first season, *MTW* and *Survivor* didn't have time to improve the first episode isn't such good things; that the show was initially poorly picked up for another year. Meanwhile, other networks are beginning to realize that there's a market for *U.S. throwback shows*. *AMC* just greenlit *Paper Moon*, a political comedy starring Paul Giamatti as a post-Watergate movie like *That Day's the Goodbye*. *Bleeding* says that *Today's a Good Day* might not exist except in the movies, but it's here, "you want to turn on your TV and see what you have, not what you didn't have. I don't think you want to watch *Dynasty* when your heart is being foreheaded on." Of course, at that logic, we might get a bunch of *30s* throwback shows where things get better. What a scary thought. ■



WE'RE STALKING... DIANE KEATON
Reemanded was summoned after Diane Keaton, 63, washed her head on the ground while filming a scene in a wedding scene for the upcoming comedy *Winging It*, co-starring Candelas-actress Rachel McAdams and Harrison Ford. Due to her injury, Keaton couldn't immediately get up after the fall—and not just because she was in a surreal fall suit. After being taken to Hospital, the actress was deemed to get back to work the next day.



ACCORDING TO TV ... GOV. MARK LAYFORD

"It turned out he was in South America. And then I found out he was sleeping with a woman from Argentina. Once again, feminism is taking jobs that Americans won't do." —David Letterman

"Gov. Sanford may have broken the law because he left the country without transferring power to his lieutenant-governor. Well, apparently Gov. Sanford violated South Carolina's second law before his law." —Conan O'Brien

Swim class for the truly terrified

The lessons run six hours a day, five days in a row. For most students, it's their last hope.

BY JULIA KREINWILL • Phyllis Lear never learned to swim and nearly drowned when she was eight. The swim took her with a kid long fear of water and a stubborn will to conquer the problem. She doggedly took beginner water lessons. "I failed every single time," she says (a little harsh in California "You'd think it's not so hard, but for me it was really right by the pool!"

With regular swimming lessons, Lear says, "you hold on to the side of the pool and you look. We never did that. There was no hold on to the side of the pool. That, that teaches you how to float, to get you comfortable in the water. He doesn't teach you how to tread water until you're down the line a bit."

I was staring at the tile. I got into the tile."

"Most of my students come to me as a last hope," says Learman. "They've tried swim twice before, many, many times. They say it's a social handicap. It's an anxiety disorder. Everybody thinks they're going to be the one who won't survive the class." Learman empathizes with the problem of anxiety. At five in class, he usually doesn't "You can't know if you have serious competition. I don't feel May-Vien here. I was finally diagnosed with

The lessons run six hours a day, five days in a row. For most students, it's their last hope.

BY JULIA MORRISWELL • Phyllis Lear never learned to swim and nearly drowned when she was eight. The scare left her with a lifelong fear of water and a stubbornness to conquer the problem. She doggedly took beginner lessons. "I failed every single time," she says from her home in California. "You'd think it's not so hard, but for me it was hard. You'd go for an hour, get in the pool and sit at the freezing, and nobody ever touched me or strokes."

Then Lerner spotted an ad for a swim clinic specifically for aquaphobic adults. It turned out Paul Lerner, a former competitive swimmer who used exposure therapy to treat his aquaphobia, Lerner holds his Adult Aquaphobia Swim Centre workshops (swimfish@vsn.com) all over the world, teaching swimming techniques such as the YMCA, and accommodations like showers in warm water for on boats straight out of the first-class life class. For adults, the

changes (Staves), run for six hours a day, five days a row. Lear, who was then 64 and "a pretty good shape," had signed up. But when she learned about the exposure therapy, she thought, "Why is that right word out go swimming for six hours? I'm cancelling!" She told her husband: "My husband said, 'Go and when you get tired, come home'."

Later recalls, "Some people couldn't put their head in the water. All they did was pose, just putting their face in the water. I could put my head in the water in the shallow end and not be freaked out. Paul had two other inseparates with him and a kid named We did extremely well. They got in the water with us. In those six hours, I was never tired. The warm water was a huge plus. We never got cold. I would bring water and power bars. Nobody can get out at any time. We kept

Low members floating and reading water for hours at the YMCA in Glendale, Calif. "The pool had the most relaxing vibe. Paul would say, 'Where are you, Phil? What are you doing?' You're supposed to be doing something."

"The biggest win for me," says Lutz, "was when I went to Hanoi. I dove off the boat and swam! I was like, 'What is this?' I couldn't believe it. My husband couldn't believe it. I was in the water for an hour."

His mistress is driving me crazy

What kind of man brings the Other Woman along on a summer road trip with his wife?

BY JOANNE LATIMER • It's mid-trip season. Every romance, women across Canada plan itineraries and organize the kids. We pack inside for the car. What do we get for our allies? The hubby brings his mistress. Stories as the free sex, between us, he is late to her every day. She is the GPS. And I, for one, have her "Shabbat," says Muband, when

as pairing in all sorts of weird directions. I think he pretends he's not always sounds so pleasant and doesn't have the rule that she's the chosen one. He's "Babe" Never!

Marriage therapist Jason Phelps sees the GPS as a warning for people to stop their power struggle. "Driving is all an incredibly gendered issue," says Phelps, based in West

Ramona, California, a registered marriage and family therapist in Burlington, Ont. "The aggression toward the GPS is really about the loss of intimacy. She's a projection of all your insecurities."

Not so far from women like Carrie Reichler. "To our marriage, I am the one who wants to drive," says Reichler, an assistant professor in art history and communication studies at McGill. "So my husband says me up with a female guide to direct me on our way

What kind of man brings the Other Woman along on a summer road trip with his wife?

BY JARANE LATIMER • It's road trip season. Every remote, scenic area in Canada gets littered and abused the kids. We pack snacks for the car. What do we get for the kids? The bulky hinged-camera. Shuts off the front seat, between us, as he leans to her every used. She hits the GPS. And I, because I'm the "Shabbies," says Mumford, when she speaks. I am the eldest to her circle. She has the power to override his inner compass. I can't say a thing about her without making him defensive. He shoots me a look of no mercy when I point out the irrationality of making U-turns at the Prince. My previous from Mumford are considered irrelevant.

Refugee passenger Bianca Allen finds my plane. She and her husband returned recently from three years in Turin, Italy. "I'm soooooo back GPS, with her Carlo Brown voice. He sounded like she was about to pass out from love/hate/sex," recalls Allen, a project manager at Motorola's new profit center. "It would go anywhere there was. We even changed our route to the airport because she knew best. I was convinced she was trying to lose me. I ended off and take my plane, because that was always dancing out to the middle of nowhere." Eventually, Allen changed the GPS's setting to something less threatening to the microphone: a honey-sake note.

"Tate Do is another member of a wealthy minority—excluded passengers with a grudge against the family's GPS. 'Oh, I hate her,' says Do, a public relations executive in Miami. 'I continuously tell my husband to ignore her. My directions should override hers, if he knows what's good for him.' Secretly, he loves her volume just as she can discreetly lower her voice when he's in the car, but I see her, sitting there on a dashboard with her green glow."

The Other Woman doesn't have a pulse, but she's still a threat: "She's an intruder, just like the cellphone, an iPod, a BlackBerry, a laptop or anything that interrupts your connection with your partner," says Marilyn.

Just like from any other long road trip through the Mountains, Ben Brannen is asking peace with the GPS. "We thought we were certain and I welcome the 'girlfriend' in our team right," says Brannen, a bookkeeper in Edmond. "At age 62, with infants, it was hell riding again in a moving vehicle with a less than perfect husband." Taylor agrees it may be too "encourage the shift" to lessen the stress. Back in Missouri, Riley Dun is taking a more direct approach. "We were stuck in a way because her GPS seemed like George Clooney. Let us know, I'll make a U-turn to the Prison for him. ■



HIGHEST IMPROVED **NICOLE D'ERCHÉ**
The daughter of pop icon Lionel Richie and former best friend of sociate Paris Hilton, Nicole D'Erché was once left for a known far from by association. Not anymore. Today, Rich's a mom, not to mention a noted style icon and designer the celebrante recently announced she's teaming up with A Pea in the Pod store to add maternity wear to her House of Marlowine. The release will coincide with the due date of her second child, later this summer.

NICHOLE RICHES

and former best friend (and better known for Fisher's a more, not to be celibate, recently in the Red stores to add. The release will come, later this summer.

WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT CARLA BRUNI

A nude print of Carla Bruni was recently auctioned in Berlin. Appraised between US\$3,548 and \$4,392, an anonymous bidder purchased the picture for US\$18,600. Although the photo, one in a series of 10 prints, went for close to four times the asking price, the buyer does not lead the market for the French first lady. Last year, Christie's auctioned a nude photo of Bruni for \$91,000, an impressive 30 times the asking price.

Why do you leave the one you love?



make millions of individual decisions about what they're going to spend on their health, and the combined cost of those decisions is a little higher in terms of GDP per capita. But that's neither here nor there – and, at any case, there are a lot of little monobots and ants in the system.

Germany 77.26, New Zealand 80.36 and Canada 84.24 years. For a while now, I've taken to responding that, once a society gets child hood mortality under control and observes basic hygiene, it'll swing through its three so-called eras with the bonus of a few long-quantifier miles at the end, and then it'll usually run into obvious companions. I'd say: 77.26 years. Albania? 77.96 years. Bosnia and Herzegovina? 78.4. Yes, nothing like civil war.

to factors such as the health system – is the high homicide rate among the African American community, and other subjects from which the methodically squeamish would rather avert their gaze. And here, when you're getting up there, an extra three years in Thunder Bay or Three Rivers sounds pretty nice, even if you're spending much of it with your legs crossed: a recent report in *Le Journal de Montréal* revealed that seven

Josh McNally and Melissa Auf der Maur were—not least—in their own fields. It was conversational-store clerks to subdivide books and writing and publishing and that wonderful “ritualized conversation about literature like a big book club” in which everyone’s membership dues are automatically deducted from your bank account, whether you go to

Buckley's judge is on sabbatical from Colby-College-beyond the "lousy creative people," beyond Canada. A few weeks ago, Charles Murray gave a speech in Washington on "The Euro pessimism" of France, no Carla Bracci gets. Mr. Murray is a very vocal political scientist, and he achieved such time-honored jest. Nevertheless, it was an surprising address, beginning with this diagnosis of "the European model's" principal defect: "It denies too much of the life from life," said Murray. "And that is the

For me, health care is a moral issue, and even a spiritual one. Not just because I don't want to be in the bathroom 12 times a night for three years. But because considering the bureaucracy's infatuation over your urinary tract is a near-pastidic example of what Colby Cosh calls a culture of "male overweening" and "deference to authority," part of the necessary surrender of individual liberty to government security across this last half century. It's not about the state of your health, but about the health of your state. ■

↑ Waiting Area

SEVERELY INCONTINENT Quebecers wait up to three years for a simple half-hour procedure that could give them a decent night's sleep.

**MACLEAN'S
BESTSELLERS**
COMPILED BY BRIAN BETHUNE

Fiction

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 1 | THE ANGELS' SHARE
by Carlos Ruiz Zafón | 4.00 |
| 2 | TEA TIME FOR THE TRICKY KID
by Alexander McCall Smith | 4.95 |
| 3 | THE WINTER KNIGHT
by Kerin McKenna | 2.75 |
| 4 | BORDER SONGS by Jim Lynch | 8.95 |
| 5 | THE CHILDREN'S BOOK
by A.S. Byatt | 3.95 |
| 6 | PERSEUS by Lisa Moore | 4.00 |
| 7 | THE LITTLE STRANGER
by Sarah Waters | 10.00 |
| 8 | ASHEAR by William Smith | 2.75 |
| 9 | MY FATHER'S FEARS
by Arthur Upson | 2.00 |
| 10 | NOCTURNES by Federico Schlegel | 9.95 |

Non-Fiction

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 1 | WHY YOUR WORLD IS ABOUT TO GET A WHOLE LOT SMALLER by Jeff Aarlt | 10/21 |
| 2 | BURN DEATH BY RUBBER DUCK by Rick Smith and Grace Louise | 2/09 |
| 3 | OUTLIERS by Malcolm Gladwell | 4/04 |
| 4 | THE BALTER by Kenneth Osborne | 01/08 |
| 5 | THE EVOLUTION OF BOO by Robert Virginia | 10/01 |
| 6 | THE CELLO SAVES by Eric Salton | 4/08 |
| 7 | DEAD AND by Deborah Mogg | 3/08 |
| 8 | THE GLOBAL DIAL by Nicholas Ross | 01/08 |
| 9 | THE END OF OVERSATING by David Resnick | 01/08 |
| 10 | PRIME GAGE by Michael Whiffa | 01/08 |

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MAKE SENSE OF IT ALL

ROGERS



AT LEAST some subscribers still put effort into their subject lines. Lindsay Lohan drops bikini bottom "That's intriguing. Possible even."

C'mon, defraud me like you mean it

I am a fan of spam. I am. But the recession seems to have robbed it of its creativity.



SCOTT
FESCHUK

Most people think of email spam as annoying, but I've always enjoyed it. It's like getting a free movie delivered to my inbox for free—no extra fees, no shipping charges.

One of my favourites is a weekly email from a woman named "Mrs. Vincent Cheng." It's a hilarious collection of spam messages, and it's a great way to see how creative people can be when they're not being paid.

This past week, I received from "Mrs. Vincent Cheng" the following message: "When do you want your \$100,000 and Fifty Thousand Dollars to be delivered to you?"

That was it. That was the entire one. Rather, an equally imaginative proposal had arrived: "I am Mr. Vincent Cheng, CIO of PCH Group of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited. I have a transaction of \$1.5 Million USD for you."

Oh, Mr. Vincent Cheng. I'm disappointed in you. Like most victims of the Internet, I have certain quality-based expectations of those who average several million dollars in life savings. For one, I expect spelling corrections, many spelling errors. I also expect a strong grasp of English verb tenses. And I expect—yes, I demand—that the entire email address of a purported wealthy individual is such as yours: be something along the lines of superwealthy@bigbank.com.

But none of that, Mr. Vincent Cheng. I expect salesmanship. I expect effort. And I expect you mean lying. Here, let me help you out a bit. You need to add a comma, okay? Enter one into my highly dubious world. Make me understand who the fake you really is. If I get you started—perhaps

you'll be the first widow of a military doctor, or c) the winner of a dog of famous breed.

That's me a picture. Make them possible that you have access to formidable only reserve but that—just like in most good Hollywood insurance comedies, and all the lovely Richard Gere ones—there is a fishy but seemingly plausible scheme keeping you from receiving the money. For instance, it could be the fact that all your husband's real estate and insurance contracts, by your spouse's fancy trumped-up law even in charges, or c) the safety deposit box is too high for you, a humble evening dog, needs—even including on your hand legs.

Once I'm committed emotionally, since I've bought into your personal tragedy as hilarious online scamming, that's when you try to hook me. That's when you tell me a) "I'll give you 30 per cent of the proceeds," b) "I'll pay you \$100,000 consulting fee," or c) "Wow!"

Now get out these and defraud me like you mean it, Mr. Cheng. That's how Cezanne 16 Latina, Norman Redman and Wilkes X. Maggusov do it, back in the day when billions of dollars were the weekly rate to drive spam filters. (Now, of course, most people automatically click delete as the first glimpse of an exotic name like Chase Wang or Jewell Mayo. In fact, I don't know how many cracks from Chase Wang I'd deleted before I discovered that Chase Wang is real,

was like person I works for a PR company in California. I am sorry for ignoring you and not believing you as a corporate finance, Chase Wang.)

Happily, there is still one spam genre where low-life scammers keep putting in the effort. Consider the anyone email I received from "Serg." The subject line attracted my eye and at least one other part of my body: "Lindsay Lohan drops bikini bottom." Intriguing, I thought to myself. Possible. So I went ahead and opened it. The full text of the message read as follows: "So large that you will have to change your underwear size." And then there was a link.

Help me out here. I can understand how a certain type of person can fall for a certain type of Internet-based scam. But what kind of guy made, "So large that you will have to change your underwear size" and thanks to himself, hey, this sounds like a reputable subscription for a safe and effective method of increasing the size of my precious genital organ. I think I'll give it a shot. And what comes in the mail if you place an order? Phil's Animals? A secret man to grab hold of it and start walking that way?

More to the point—do you have any idea, Serg, how big a penis would need to grow to enough a change in underwear size? I don't either, but I suspect the words "unprecedented" and "hey, stop stepping on that" would be involved.

And what about Lindsay Lohan and that bikini bottom? What happened to that little promise, Serg? I'm beginning to think I shouldn't trust you with my bank account information either. ■

ON THE WEB: To read Feschuk on the Internet visit his blog macleans.ca/feschuk

GARRY ARTHUR BROOKS

1945-2009

He would stay up all night flooding the rink for the local kids. Neighbours called him the Ice Man.

Garry Arthur Brooks was born in Innes, N.B., a dairy town north of Saint John, on April 12, 1945, to Emory, a veterinarian, and Ruby, a homemaker. A rambunctious, energetic boy, he enjoyed helping others even as a boy: he shovelled his mother's walkway after blizzards and, when neighbours birthdayed, cared for their milk cows. But when Emory's job with the Dominion News superceded their income, the family to Saint John, 12-year-old Garry tired of school, prefer employment the living Old trials as they lurched past his classroom window and to play hockey with friends. Garry missed the goal! Among the girls who watched their games and dated the players—Garry, ever the helper, taught many of them to drive—was Heather Bingham, daughter of the local grocer. "He's always been really nice to people," she says. "That stuck out."

At 17—infered, so soon as he could, so much did he dislike school—he enrolled, becoming an infatuation in the Black Watch Regiment. He joined the gunner. Army life took him to CFB Gagetown, then to Germany. On his return, he asked Heather out. Facing a different future at the time, she declined, but Garry was persistent. He discovered his preferred future only after marriage. "He loved to work," she says. On off days he took jobs mowing lawns, haying and wood—and his passion beyond the barrel: ice hockey league—working his machine. In 1963, he was travelling with the Canadian Forces Centennial Detachment when he either bore a son, Darren. Yet his military service was not all paganism: there were peacocking tourism Cyprus and, in 1970, time in Montreal during the FLQ crisis. "He was," says Heather, "a mild talker."

By the late '70s, Garry was a seaman and ready for a change. And for a grocery business in tiny Fredericton Junction, N.B., because his out. As A.W. Robinson General Store, customers could choose from rubber boots, TV sets, nails from round-wood crates, dress her pants and pickles on beef (deliveries upon request). Garry learned to weld the long-lost for butchering beef and ground-out sausages. After hours, he butchered meat and beef for friends. The work came naturally, in large part due to his ingenious nature. "He had a point on it and he used to be in the newspaper and have a cigarette and people would come by and talk," says Darren.

Village enjoyed the way he wore bedroom slippers to the bank, his good natured teasing and his famous "hoo, hoo, hoo" guffaw.

He began a third career in the '90s, buying an old loader and, later, a premonition dealer, backhoe and a dump truck. With the funding of Garry Brooks Construction Ltd., he gave the name to Darren, buying him to build road and gravel, fill his lot and, in winter, plow the roads. As one says, he delighted in getting a resident the same way. "It's like old lady," he'd say. "I could have punched him," says the woman. Yet she added later, as did everyone. It was in winter that he found his real life's work: maintaining an outdoor rink that has two grandchildren—along with all the other village kids—depended on for playing hockey. He spent his time, flooded it, often keeping it at night. "I went down at midnight and got home at a quarter after four," he told the Daily Gleaner of a typical evening. "I don't mind doing that for the kids." People called him the Ice Man.

His work on the rink, which he had a break for handling even on the warmest days, led to his being named, in 2003, MRC Local Hockey Leader for New Brunswick, an award recognizing hockey volunteers that includes inclusion for equipment. Garry's purest thought hockey always—and recognition as the Hockey Hall of Fame in January. Allowed to exhibit a statue for permanent display there, he

went for the job of the local minor hockey league to sign up—though Garry flooding the rink, the job used to drain the corner in his hand. "He said every kid got to have their names on the Hockey Hall of Fame," says Valerie Webb, who nominated Garry. So well, said did his outdoor rink become that Fredericton Junction began work on an outdoor facility, though it would take Garry's contributions elsewhere. Villagers envisioned him as a Zamboni. The new rink project allowed him to marry his love—hockey and machinery—and he soon in about donating labor and equipment, after leaving paid contracts unfilled to land a quick hand.

Garry was on one such job in June 11, when, while unloading his bulldozer from a bear, the machine slipped, tipped, and threw him from the cabs, crushing him. At his funeral, the children of the minor hockey league lined the street as Fredericton Junction in the prep. Garry's devotion paid for

BY NICHOLAS ROBLER

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Attention shoppers on a smarter planet.

Nothing, you'd think, would be more dynamic or up-to-the-minute than how we buy and sell. From the early Greek agoras to the modern superstore, markets have always been the most sensitive barometers of economic and societal change.

However, today's retail model is struggling. It's still largely a system built for the realities of an earlier era – a linear, push-based process where products are manufactured in isolation and put into market en masse from factory to truck to store, for customers who do the majority of their shopping in suburban malls. This served very well the needs of manufacturers, retailers and consumers half a century ago. But today, this system is straining to adapt to global supply chains, new ways and venues for selling – both physical and virtual – and a very different kind of consumer.

Global retail today sees lead times as long as 6 to 10 months, forcing vendors to make significant bets on inventory, consumer trends and distribution methods – bloating supply chains with a stockpile of \$1.2 trillion in excess merchandise. At the same time, retailers lose a staggering \$93 billion in missed sales every year, simply because they don't have the right products in stock to meet customer demand. And that demand is more challenging and immediate than ever before. 43% of Canadians research purchases online before making a significant buying decision.

To do business with shoppers on a smarter planet, retailers and manufacturers need a smarter system. One that bends retail's global supply chain to these new realities. It needs to be interconnected, so the system can be fed by customer insight at every point in the process – all the way from design to distribution. It needs to be instrumented, so every item of inventory can be tracked and

accounted for. And it needs to be intelligent, so vast amounts of customer data can be analyzed and turned into real value in real time.

You can see examples of this right now: 1-800-FLOWERS.COM, Inc. is tearing down the walls between its 14 brands through a flexible Web platform that lets the company respond to customer needs faster and more efficiently. Outdoor retailer Moosejaw is giving its customers a seamless shopping experience across all channels (retail, Web, mobile, etc.) and is infusing customer feedback and reviews back into a system designed to continuously improve the products and customer experience. The German METRO Group, one of the largest and most international retailing companies in the world, has introduced RFID technology throughout its entire supply chain to help them get the products its customers want on the shelves when they want them. And top clothing designer Elie Tahari has built an inventory-reporting platform that's helped it better match its products to customer demand.

By building intelligence into our entire retail system, retailers, manufacturers and suppliers can eliminate inefficiency and waste at every link of the chain – crucial in the current economic downturn. Even more important, retailers can better serve the new breed of empowered consumer, whose expectations for high value, individual service and low prices will only grow.

Going forward, the watchword of commerce may no longer be caveat emptor – "buyer beware." In a smarter retail system, it is the seller who must be – and can be – vastly more attentive and responsive.

Let's build a smarter planet. Join us and learn more at ibm.com/think/ea

